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Arab-Israeli Talks

An Israeli plan for Palestinian self-government was reported by YEDI'OT AHARONOT. The Palestinians termed the proposal "humiliating, not only in substance, but also in form," Radio Monte Carlo reported, with Palestinian spokesperson 'Ashrawi telling Sanaa Voice of Palestine that the offer constitutes "a new kind of apartheid." A "senior official in Jerusalem" termed Palestinian behavior "extremist and undiplomatic," after a Palestinian delegate reportedly told REUTER that "Israel's plan for self-rule is so paltry that the Israelis deserve to have their necks broken," Jerusalem radio disclosed. The head of an Israeli negotiating team, meanwhile, denied that the incident had caused a "setback," the radio continued. Palestinian adviser al-Husayni told Radio Monte Carlo that "a certain level of Arab coordination is achieved, but there are gaps" before and after coordination meetings. Lebanon rejected an Israeli security proposal, with the chief negotiator telling the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon that the plan signifies "discussing the normalization of relations between the two countries before peace is achieved."

Palestinian Affairs

A PFLP-GC official statement on Lockerbie was broadcast by the clandestine al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio. The mainstream PLO, "seeking to improve its negotiating position" with the United States, implicated Iran and the PFLP-GC as having been involved in the case, the statement charged.

Syria

Damascus radio reported that the "fanatical Zionist Kahana organization" claimed responsibility for two bombs that exploded "outside a UN building in New York."

Lebanon

The cabinet discussed a number of measures "regarding the monetary situation and the pressure facing the Lebanese pound," according to the prime minister's statement, which was reported by Voice of Lebanon. The pressure was caused in part by inflation and by "rumors biased against the Lebanese economy in general," he continued. New Hizballah leader Nasrallah, noting that some government officials have stressed the right of resistance, told the Voice of the Oppressed that his movement needs no one's permission to fight Israel. Nasrallah added that "it would be incorrect" to speak about "restrictions" in the firing of katyushas at Israel.

Iraq

Saddam visited headquarters of the Ba'th Party National and Regional Commands to inspect work aimed at repairing "what was destroyed by the treacherous traitors," INA reported. "Assassinations will be allowed for those who persist in their extremism," according to a "press adviser," whose remarks on opposition members were published in BABIL and reported by AFP. The Foreign Ministry's seven-point rejection of a UN human rights report was transmitted by INA.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan's visit with an Iraqi oppositionist was reported by the clandestine Voice of the Iraqi People, which cited the prince as saying that the Kingdom "will not hold back on any assistance" to topple the Iraqi regime.

Algeria

The prime minister told Algiers radio that the Higher State Council's plan to take back property belonging to political parties is still an open issue. The radio cited the National Liberation Front leader's hope that whatever decision that is made will be done according to law.

Sudan

Some 8,000 Iranian troops posing as construction workers are stationed in the south, according to the Cairo paper ROSE AL-YUSUF. Iranian sources cited by the London paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT denied reports that Iranians troops had been killed in a clash with Garang forces. Excerpts of 'Umar al-Bashir's address to the Transitional National Assembly was broadcast by Omdurman radio.

Pakistan

A Foreign Office statement rejected Delhi's charges of interference in internal Indian affairs, according to Islamabad radio, which also reported on the meeting between the Indian ambassador and the minister for interprovincial coordination. The issue of recognizing Israel "simply does not arise," according to a Foreign Office spokesman cited by the radio. Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev departed after a visit, the radio disclosed; during a banquet speech reported by the radio, Nazarbayev said Kazakhstan "is ready to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

India

Defense planners expressed "concern" at Pakistan's acquisition of 40 French Mirage-2000's, the INDIAN EXPRESS noted. The minister of state for defense said the country will take all steps necessary to guarantee security, and that France has been informed of India's concern, Delhi radio announced.

Sri Lanka

Troops captured 10 miles of LTTE-held territory in an offensive against the group, Colombo international radio reported.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Media Report Developments, Atmospherics

Self-Government Proposal Submitted

TA2702093592 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Feb 92 p 5

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer in Washington; "Document"—YEDI'OT AHARONOT subhead]

[Text] The following are the main points in the Israeli document that includes the details of the self-government proposals presented to the Palestinian delegation on Tuesday. It is entitled "Ideas on Peaceful Coexistence in the Territories During the Transitional Period":

—"The lengthy history of the conflict requires time to heal and to build trust in stages."

—"The gaps between the sides are so significant that there is no way to bridge them in one sweeping move. Therefore, we believe that the gap can be bridged only through a process of forging a life together through interim arrangements, to be followed by an agreement on the final status of the territories."

—"A transitional period provides a greater chance to put to the test the arrangements that will be agreed upon, including adherence to the agreements."

"The final status of the territories will not be determined in the proposed agreement. We do not intend to discuss the fate of the territory, but self-government for the inhabitants. The Palestinian inhabitants will be given the right to conduct their own affairs in accordance with the agreement during the transitional stage. In the negotiations, Israel will propose transferring wide-ranging fields to appropriate Palestinian bodies: running the judicial system, administrative matters, agriculture, education and culture, budget and taxes, health, industry, trade, tourism, labor, welfare, local police, transportation, communications, religion, and municipal affairs."

'Tempers Flared;' Protest Over Remark

TA2702054992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] The meeting of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations was terminated this morning following harsh exchanges, but the two delegations will meet again tonight. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben- 'Ami reports that when the meeting started last night, the Israeli representatives protested the remark made by a Palestinian delegate in a REUTER interview that Israel's plan for self-rule is so paltry that the Israelis deserve to have their necks broken. The Israelis made it clear that such cheap remarks have no room in serious negotiations. The Palestinians said in response that Israel does not take them or their plan seriously.

The head of the Israeli delegation expressed the view, without saying as much explicitly, that the Palestinian offer is not self- rule but a Palestinian state. According to him, this is a Palestinian attempt to determine the final status of the territories at this stage of the negotiations, and this is unacceptable to Israel.

The Palestinians refused to discuss Israel's offer, and tempers flared. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, asked that the meeting be stopped. As was said before, the delegations will reconvene tonight.

Sources in the Israeli delegation claim that the Palestinians are getting too much media exposure in the United States and that their comments find their way into the negotiations room and do not allow for serious discussions.

'Extremist and Undiplomatic' Conduct

TA2702115992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] A senior official in Jerusalem says the Palestinian negotiators in Washington have made a serious miscalculation in adopting extremist and undiplomatic behavior. The official was reacting to the statement by one of the Palestinians that someone should wring the neck of his Israeli counterpart. Jack Katzenell reports:

In Jerusalem, the Palestinians' behavior is viewed as gamesmanship. They are in America and they have the media at their beck and call, an official told me this morning. They think the current atmosphere in the United States is anti-Israel, what with the loan guarantees and Secretary Baker's demand for a settlement freeze. So they feel that this is a time for them to obtain massive U.S. pressure against Israel, but they are very much mistaken.

With the Israeli negotiators in Washington is Dr. Yosi Olmert. In an interview with our reporter David Ze'ev, he said it is precisely because the two sides are now discussing substantive issues like the nature of the autonomy that the Palestinian rhetoric has become so sharp.

[Begin recording] [Olmert] But it's clear that, at the same time, expressions like "the neck of the Israeli negotiator ought to be broken for the paper it presented," or stuff like this is totally and completely unacceptable and intolerable.

[Ze'ev] In a way, isn't this the moment of truth? We all knew we would come down to the time when the Palestinians would demand a Palestinian state and the Israelis would offer no more than autonomy.

[Olmert] I would like to think that the moment of truth will come only when we sign the peace treaties. We shall all have to be a little bit more patient. It's clear that this is a moment of division; it is a moment of sharp differences that are being expressed without any ambiguity, but I think that their interests are other than what

you see now, and the basic interest of both sides is at least not to drop out of the process, let alone to try to give it a chance. [end recording]

Officials in Jerusalem also said there is no place in serious negotiations for expressions like "break his neck," but they agreed with Yosi Olmert that the talks will go on. We are not on the verge of an explosion, one senior official told me.

Rubinstein: No Setback

TA2702065192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Tension, if not crisis, was noted in the Israeli-Palestinian talks in Washington. The head of the Israeli delegation has said that progress in the talks should not be measured in large segments. At the same time, it seems that the Palestinians are getting too much media exposure in the United States and prefer discussing issues other than substance. Following the unsuccessful meeting last night, our correspondent in Washington 'Oded Ben-'Ami spoke with Elyaqim Rubinstein and asked him whether there has been a setback in the talks:

[Begin Rubinstein recording] I do not believe there has been a setback, but we certainly feel that more could have been accomplished had the other side been more responsive and more willing to promote the issues we are supposed to deal with, meaning negotiations on the interim arrangements.

We came here with negotiations proposals that we believe are rational, realistic, and reasonable. Accompanying us are experts on several matters who will present, for example, the economic issues that are to be discussed in the interim arrangements, such as industry, trade, and agriculture. We did not propose discussions on athletics or other such petty matters, which someone attempted to claim are our offers. This is not what we are offering.

We are very interested in presenting the various issues which, naturally, entail negotiations. There is no doubt that they will have to be discussed one way or another even if the other side believes this is not enough. We are saying: Here are the experts, here are the papers; let us discuss them. So far, this has not materialized. I still hope it will. I believe it will serve everybody's practical interests in the negotiations. I would really like to hope that we will deal less with issues intended for media consumption, here in the United States or elsewhere, and deal with what we came here for. [end recording]

Palestinians React To 'Humiliating' Israeli Offer

JN2602182992 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Hisham Milhim report from Washington]

[Text] The third day of bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel began with morning sessions held between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations, the Syrian and Israeli delegations, and the Jordanian and Israeli delegations. A Palestinian-Israeli session will be held this afternoon.

This morning a Palestinian delegation composed of Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi met with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, to discuss a number of issues, including the settlements in the occupied Arab territories and the need to halt settlement activities as a prerequisite to achieving peace through negotiations.

Palestinian sources have said that the plan presented by Israel with regard to its concept of the situation that would exist in the occupied Arab territories during the transitional period does not include any elements that can be built upon during the bilateral talks. Therefore, it is expected that the Palestinian delegation will ask Washington to present proposals to bridge the wide gap between the two sides. The meeting also is expected to discuss the status of Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat and his role in the Palestinian delegation in view of the Israeli objections and the U.S. reservations about him.

Informed Palestinian sources have told Radio Monte Carlo that the Israeli concept presented to the Palestinians was humiliating, not only in substance, but also in form. It was presented on blank, unofficial papers that do not bear the name of Israel. The Israeli plan came in the form of a two-page letter from Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, to Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, with a few documents attached to it. The plan is entitled "Ideas on Peaceful Coexistence in the Territories During the Transitional Period." The plan includes certain general principles but does not use, for example, the term self-government [al-hukumah al-dhatiyah] or the term used in accordance with the Palestinian perception; namely, the Palestinian authority.

The letter shows that the arrangements Israel seeks during the transitional period are not connected to the final status and that these arrangements apply to the inhabitants and not to the land. They also do not cover the inhabitants of Arab Jerusalem.

The attached documents talk about the meaning of coexistence and confidence-building and show that the long-term objective is to achieve coexistence between the Jews and the Arabs in what the letter calls Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Sector. The Palestinian powers during the transitional period cover legal affairs related to work and crime, but not political or security issues. They also cover administrative affairs, agriculture, and fisheries, but the letter does not mention water resources in this regard. The Palestinian powers also cover education, culture, budget, taxes, public health, industry, trade, tourism, employment, social security, and local police who deal with criminal issues, and transport and communications. In this regard, the letter says that the powers should cover the maintenance of local transport, and does not refer, for example, to the main highway

networks in the occupied territories. The plan also refers to municipal affairs, limited to water networks, the sewage system, and other such issues.

Before the beginning of the Syrian-Israeli session, Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said he hopes to hear something substantive and constructive today from the Israeli delegation with regard to the serious and sincere implementation of Resolution 242. Al-'Allaf stated that he is not satisfied with the way his Israeli counterpart, Yosi Ben-Aharon, talks to the media about what goes on during the sessions, such as claiming that Syria refused to talk about peace or to receive a lengthy paper in that regard. Al-'Allaf added: We received the paper and rejected its content because it is not harmonious with what we are discussing or with Resolution 242, and because it does not talk about the principle of land for peace.

'Ashrawi: 'New Kind of Apartheid'

JN2602172892 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] At the session held yesterday afternoon, the Palestinian negotiators refused to discuss the Israeli proposals regarding Tel Aviv's perceptions of the transitional period. The Palestinian negotiators insisted on their stand, namely that they will not move on to other issues until a solution to the settlements problem and Israel's violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories is reached. Members of the Palestinian delegation described the Israeli perceptions of the transitional period in the West Bank and Gaza—perceptions handed to the Palestinian delegation by the Israeli delegation the day before yesterday—as an entrenchment of the Israeli occupation and an attempt to give it international legitimacy.

Palestinian spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that this is a new kind of apartheid. She explained that the Israeli proposals in this regard provide for two different legal and judicial systems for the Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied Arab territories. For example, she noted, Israeli military orders and regulations will remain in force in the occupied territories as far as the Palestinians alone are concerned. As for the Israeli settlers, however, they are subject to Israeli law. According to this document, the real authority will remain in the hands of the Israeli Government, not in Palestinian hands.

The Palestinian spokeswoman said: Unless Israel is ready to halt settlement activities, we will not be able to move on to the other topics on the agenda.

Al-Husayni on Priorites, Meeting With Baker

JN2602121092 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian Advisory Council, by Hisham Milhim in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Milhim] Have you received [word indistinct] assurances that Washington will insist that Israel [words indistinct] in this respect?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, Mr. Baker has sent us a letter and told me personally about this. In the letter, he expressed satisfaction that the Palestinians [words indistinct] their negotiations on the transitional period, and [word indistinct] that he urged the Israelis to do the same. But the letter contains another point which we raised in the meeting: Namely, that the United States not only will play the role of honest broker, as they used to call it, but will act as a driving force. Together with all of this, Baker decided that the meetings should be held here during his presence in Washington, not during his absence. This suggests that this driving force will be effective and not merely ink on paper.

[Milhim] From a Palestinian point of view, what do you want this round of talks to achieve?

[Al-Husayni] Stopping the settlement activity, getting to the essence of things, and discussing the arrangements of the transitional period clearly and practically. I believe that Baker's position during the meeting was identical to what he has told us already. He said that he intends to be firm about this issue, and we expect the U.S. approach to develop in such a way so as to face the truth and curb Israel. Things, in fact, should not stop at the guarantees, but also should be extended—if Israel continues its intransigence—to cover U.S. assistance to Israel.

[Milhim] Is it practically possible, Mr. Faysal, to make any progress (?before the Israeli elections) and perhaps the U.S. elections?

[Al-Husayni] If Shamir does not voluntarily allow any progress, then the whole negotiating process may stop. Then the battle will take place on the fronts of Israeli public opinion, U.S. public opinion, and of course, Palestinian public opinion.

[Milhim] Are you satisfied with the level of Arab coordination?

[Al-Husayni] We cannot say that there is [words indistinct]. During the stay in the cities of the talks, whether Madrid or Washington, a certain level of Arab coordination is achieved, but there are gaps and [word indistinct] before and after the meetings.

[Milhim] So far the Arabs have been talking about the need to stay in Washington. Through your meetings with Secretary Baker or other personalities, have you sensed that the United States may accept some sort of compromise and call for moving the negotiations to another place?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, the United States has asked that this round be the last in Washington. It asked the Arab countries to nominate 10 cities—so that each country can express its own desire—and the United States then would draw conclusions and name a certain city or cities. The Arabs prefer the talks to continue in Washington for

several reasons, one of which is that Washington is a powerful media center, especially as concerns the United States and U.S. action. Washington is also the capital of the stronger sponsor. Therefore, it is useful to hold the talks here because this keeps them close to the decision-making center. However, we do not [word indistinct] about this. We know that the United States can be effective, even in cities far from Washington. As far as we, the Palestinians, are concerned, what matters is that the negotiations not be held under the shadow of occupation. We are ready to meet in any European city, provided that there is a Palestinian representation in that city, or that country. The first point discussed during the meeting was the detention of the members of the Palestinian delegation and the fact that some members were not allowed to leave across the bridge. These were the subjects we discussed and raised with the U.S. secretary. We said that the issue is not an individual case, but the entire method of dealing with the Palestinian delegation. If they want us to continue negotiating with the occupier, while we are still under occupation, then there should be a special way of dealing with this delegation, an agreed-on system governing the relationship and the contacts between the Palestinian delegation and the Israeli authorities should be worked out.

[Milhim] Judging from the Israeli Labor Party's platform, do you think the chance for progress in the peace process will be greater if that party forms the Israeli Government?

[Al-Husayni] This depends on how the elections are held. So far, we believe that the Labor Party is going to the elections supporting the idea of land for peace and negotiations with Palestinians wherever they exist, not only with the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. The Labor Party, moreover, is more concerned with security than ideology. All of this indicates that negotiations with the Labor Party might be easier. However, we should always be alert and not forget that we had a bitter experience with the Labor Party. The balance may be redressed not by the Labor Party's assuming power, but by the party's allying itself with other forces that have deeper links with the peace process and a stronger conviction about the rights of the Palestinian people.

Syrian Negotiator on Previous, Upcoming Talks

JN2602165892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Washington—Before the third session of the third round of bilateral peace talks started today, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, said that at this session the Israeli side will present its interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242.

In a statement to journalists upon his arrival at the U.S. State Department, where the talks are being held, al-'Allaf stated: The Israeli interpretation of this resolution is still very far removed from harmony with the concept which international law, international legitimacy, and the world community have about this resolution, nor does it correspond to the objective of peace which these talks are trying to achieve.

He added: Any interpretation of Resolution 242 should not be based on expansionist plans and ideas that advocate the retention of lands occupied by war.

Al-'Allaf said: Despite the fact that four months have passed since the peace process was launched at the Madrid conference, the Israelis have not said a single word about their readiness to implement their obligations as stipulated by Resolution 242. The first thing they should do in this regard is to announce their commitment to withdrawal from the Arab territories they occupied in 1967.

Al-'Allaf noted that during yesterday's meeting, the Syrian Arab delegation had rejected a few points raised for discussion by the Israeli side because these points were not in harmony with Resolutions 242 and 338 or with the principle of land for peace. Al-'Allaf said: How can we discuss peace within a peace process based on Resolutions 242 and 338 without talking about these two resolutions. He added: Everything the Israelis have said so far does not indicate goodwill toward the achievement of peace in the region.

'No Progress' at 26 Feb Session

JN2602215392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, chief of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has said that the issues raised by the Israeli side at today's session have shown that the Israelis came here with absolutely no intention in mind of achieving peace. He added that, when the Israeli side touched on UN Security Council Resolution 242, it had emerged with an interpretation of this resolution completely in contrast with the concept of the international community and the United Nations, and even with the concept of the two cosponsors of the peace conference.

In view of this, al-'Allaf added, it is only natural that no progress has been achieved in the talks. Al-'Allaf declared that during tomorrow's session, the Syrian delegation will respond to today's misinterpretations by the Israeli side and will work to push the talks toward what is substantive and important.

Lebanon Rejects Israeli Security Proposal

NC2602213692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Excerpts] A Lebanese-Israeli session of talks in Washington ended a short while ago with the Lebanese side rejecting an Israeli proposal. Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said that Lebanon can address Israel's security concerns only in the framework of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425. The Israeli side, however, believes that Resolution

425 should be a part of a peace treaty. Ambassador Shammas currently is meeting with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state. For more details, here is our correspondent in Washington, Nuhad al-Hayik:

[Al-Hayik] The Lebanese side rejected the proposal the Israeli side put forward yesterday. The proposal calls for the formation of two working teams to tackle the major issues at hand. The Lebanese team said that the proposal conflicts with Lebanon's understanding of the peace process and could render it meaningless.

Ambassador Shammas said that the Israeli side wants to link an Israeli withdrawal to Syria's presence in Lebanon. The Israelis brought up the issue of their security concerns. Lebanon, however, believes that these concerns should be addressed only as part of implementing Resolution 425 and in accordance with the mechanism detailed in Clause 8 of Resolution 426. [passage omitted]

Shammas said that the U.S. side is aware of the reasons Lebanon attended the peace conference. He noted that the Americans provided Lebanon with assurances in this regard, adding: We are very satisfied with the fact that they have made a clear commitment to ensuring the success of the peace process. We have no misgivings about this commitment, Shammas stated. [passage omitted]

Additional Remarks by Chief Delegate

NC2702071292 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Lebanese delegation head Ambassador Suhayl Shammas has announced after the third round of talks with the Israeli delegation that Lebanon is ready to discuss security arrangements at the border with Israel within the framework of implementing UN Resolution 425. He added, however, that the Israeli delegation rejects this and focuses on linking the Israeli withdrawal to the Syrian presence in Lebanon.

Yosef Hadas, co-head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with Lebanon, has stated that the Lebanese are linking the negotiations to the implementation of UN Resolution 425, a resolution that is extremely important to discuss at the appropriate time. He noted that the entire situation is negotiable because it is part of the general framework of peace. Hadas disclosed that the Lebanese delegation had turned down a proposal to set up two committees, adding that Ambassador Shammas considered the proposal premature. Hadas drew Shammas' attention to news reports that Iranian elements will soon arrive in Lebanon to help Hizballah, which worries Israel. Ambassador Shammas responded by emphasizing that no foreign elements will enter Lebanon and that no action will be launched without the permission of the Lebanese Army.

Here is a live report from our correspondent in Washington Michel al-Haj to brief us on the latest developments:

[Begin al-Haj recording] Lebanese chief delegate Ambassador Suhayl Shammas has made an exclusive statement to Radio Free Lebanon. He stressed that Lebanon has not yet handed the U.S. Administration a list of the 10 cities it favors for hosting the coming round of bilateral talks and has made no secret of its desire that the talks remain in Washington.

Regarding his meeting yesterday for more than one hour with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, Ambassador Shammas said we had seized the opportunity to inform the U.S. Administration of our assessment of the peace process so far. He noted that the discussion did not focus on the multilateral talks, but the subject was mentioned in passing while reviewing the situation.

In response to a question on the practical proposal made by the Israeli delegation, he said that the proposal called for setting up two subcommittees, one security and the other civilian. This, he added, means we are discussing the normalization of relations between the two countries before peace is achieved. But our stand is clear and it stems from the need to implement UN Resolution 425, he added. [passage omitted]

Returning to the Lebanese-Israeli talks, the two delegates are expected to resume discussion at 1000 today, 1700 Beirut time, on the prerequisites for peace, the requirements for border security, and the Syrian military presence in Lebanon. It is worth noting that the two sides have discussed these points more than once before without reaching any agreement. It has become clear that the Israeli attempts to conclude side deals with the various Arab parties, which seek to force these parties to accept things short of their demands, even if temporarily, will not succeed. This is particularly so since the concerned Arab parties are certain that the current Israeli Government is not in a position to make any concessions. They also know that the stands and statements of the Israeli negotiators during the Washington talks are primarily directed at Israeli voters. Perhaps the maximum to be gained from the current round of talks is to agree on the date and venue of the coming round of bilateral peace talks. [end recording]

Jordanian Spokesman on Topics of Third Session

JN2602190792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] In Washington, working sessions of the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks resumed a little while ago for the third consecutive day. A few minutes before the session began, our radio telephoned Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, what has been achieved so far in the working sessions of the past two days?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Two working sessions have been held so far between the Jordanian and the Israeli delegations,

one on Monday and one on Tuesday. In fact, this time we immediately moved to discuss substance and entered into the heart of the peace process. We talked about two topics we think constitute the principal pillar and without which the peace process cannot be built. These concern Resolution 242 and the settlements. With regard to Resolution 242, we insist that this resolution be defined and interpreted, especially since the Israeli delegation still does not acknowledge the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, as is clearly stipulated by Resolution 242 and without which the peace process cannot achieve any progress. We also talked about settlements from a Jordanian point of view. The settlements constitute a violation of international law. Furthermore, from the Jordanian viewpoint, the Israeli settlers are seizing Jordanian water resources: The water of the Jordan River. Additionally, the settling of Israelis in the West Bank in essence would drive Palestinian citizens from their land to Jordan. This places further burdens on Jordan's shoulders and directly affects the Jordanian economy. We raised these two issues and requested that a working committee be set up to interpret Resolution 242 and reach a common ground so that we can discuss other topics. We have not yet agreed with the Israelis over this issue.

[Correspondent] Dr. Marwan, are there any other priorities that will be emphasized during today's session?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] In fact, what I have just said is the topic upon which we place the greatest emphasis. I think that it should be resolved before discussing the other issues so that we can find a solid ground from which we then can proceed to discuss other issues.

[Correspondent] What is the general atmosphere of the talks, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir? How are these talks proceeding?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The atmosphere of the talks inside the hall is normal, although the Israeli opinions are still very inflexible. With regard to the Palestinian side, the Israelis have raised their ideas about Palestinian self-rule. Their ideas are very negative to the extent that they have even fallen short of what the Camp David accords proposed 10 years ago. This has made the atmosphere very tense as far as the Palestinian side is concerned. As for the Jordanian side, I cannot say that we have achieved any progress. We still disagree on the interpretation of Resolution 242 and the issue of settlements.

[Correspondent] Is there any talk now about moving the venue of the talks?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The Israelis raised this issue yesterday. We held a joint meeting with the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to discuss this subject. We still believe that Washington is the most appropriate place for the negotiations, and we agreed that any talk about moving the venue from Washington can take place only after achieving tangible progress in the talks. The subject will be discussed later, perhaps at the end of this round.

[Correspondent] Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, what do you think about the level of coordination among the Arab parties?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] In fact, there is a real and very strong degree of coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, and there are meetings between the two sides every day. Coordination among the Arab delegations is also good. Yesterday, a meeting of all the heads of the Arab delegations was held. I believe that coordination in each round is better than that of the previous round.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Thank you. [end recording]

Delegate Says Substance Discussed

JN2602204792 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Murid Hammad report from Washington]

[Text] The third round of Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations ended at the State Department a few minutes ago. Discussions were reported to have centered on the best modalities to continue peace negotiations. Head of [Jordanian] delegation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, briefed reporters on how the talks proceeded.

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] We did discuss this morning [word indistinct] to resume our negotiations, and we went on with this by informal meeting between the heads of the two delegations to try to devise the best modalities of continuing the negotiations. And then we had a plenary meeting on this. And, by tomorrow morning, we hope that we will come to agreement on this type of modality of carrying out future negotiations in a better form.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Majali] No procedures. No. No. We finished with the procedure. We are talking of modalities, of putting the action of negotiations in a better form. [end recording]

Earlier today, three members of the Palestinian delegation came to the State Department for a meeting with the under secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, Edward Djerejian. The spokeswoman, Hanan 'Ashrawi, said the talks dealt with progress in the Middle East peace talks, as well as the situation in the occupied territories.

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] We reviewed progress, or lack of progress, in the negotiations. We also reviewed the developments on the ground in the occupied territories, the human rights violations. We discussed the Palestinian position and Palestinian strategy. And we presented a very thorough analysis of what we consider are imperatives at this moment.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] proposals and counterproposals for [words indistinct]?

['Ashrawi] Yes. Yes. Then we showed that there are very basic discrepancies, or basic disagreements, even on the premises. We start with the assumption that we are human beings with rights, national rights and the rights on the ground, and they start with the assumption that we are inhabitants of the territories with no rights whatsoever. So, in order to have any bridging ideas, we have to bring closer, or at least start from, the same assumption. [end recording]

Last night, head of delegation Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali met with members from the Inter-Religious Committee for Peace in the Middle East, which includes Muslim, Christian, and Jewish leaders in the United States. Discussions centered on the peace process and means to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The head of delegation later hosted a working dinner for the heads of the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations for a review of the talks and the progress in the four paths of the negotiations.

The talks are expected to continue into next week, but there is no clear indication yet as to whether a Jordanian-Palestinian proposal to extend the talks until the 11th of March will be accepted by the Israelis.

Arab peace negotiators taking part in the talks here in Washington have described this round as decisive and they've said it will influence the whole future of the peace process.

Additional Comments by Arab Delegation Heads

JN2702060492 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Arab and Israeli negotiators to the Washington peace talks are due to resume their meetings at the State Department today. Both sides held a round of talks yesterday, but in statements afterwards, the heads of negotiating teams said they made no progress.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salim al-Majali, the head of the Jordanian delegation, said there are deep differences with the Israeli team. He told reporters he received no answer from the Israeli negotiating team on his request of extending their meetings until March the 11th.

The head of Syria's delegation, Mr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, said the Israelis went to Washington with no intention whatsoever of making peace.

Lebanon's negotiating team head, Mr. Suhayl Shammas, said he rejected an Israeli proposal to set up a joint working commission because such an action will create certain conditions which will affect the negotiations.

The dispute between the Palestinian and Israeli teams continued to exist, and the head of the Palestinian delegation, Mr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, said the viewpoints of both sides on priorities were far apart.

Earlier yesterday, spokeswoman of the Palestinian peace delegation, Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi, told reporters that the Israelis continued to express their willingness to consolidate their occupation of Arab territories. However, Mrs. 'Ashrawi, who was speaking after a meeting with the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, said the negotiations had not reached a deadlock. She also said there was no need for a direct U.S. interference in the peace talks between the Arabs and the Israelis.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP Spokesman Denies Lockerbie Bombing Charge

JN2602192892 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Commenting on implications that charges will be leveled again against the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] with regard to the Lockerbie aircraft issue, a PFLP-GC spokesman has stated the following: Since the crash of the U.S. Pan American aircraft at Lockerbie, Scotland, the United States and its allies have constantly used this incident to direct a ready charge at whoever opposes their policy. Having claimed that international investigations prove the PFLP-GC's responsibility in this incident, and following three years of suspicious propaganda warfare aimed at promoting a political extortion operation against Syria and the Front, Western circles surprised the world by directing this charge at the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, thus starting a new chapter of injustice and fabrication.

Continuing his statement, the PFLP-GC spokesman said: A few days ago the issue of the U.S. aircraft began to acquire a new face. News agencies cited known Palestinian sources on a security study presented by organs affiliated with the PLO. The study accuses the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PFLP-GC of being responsible for the alleged bombing. This causes us to note the following points:

1. It is both regrettable and disgusting that a Palestinian party has been chosen to direct charges within this alleged issue and repeated comedy show. This is being done because the relinquishing Palestinian party is seeking to improve its negotiating position by looking for various ways to approach the U.S. Administration and to bargain over the homeland and the cause. Meanwhile, the Zionist enemy is escalating its military blows and continuing its occupation of southern Lebanon and its measures of repression, torture, and the daily killing of our people in Palestine. At the same time the course of capitulation is begging for a good conduct certificate from the United States, even if this takes place through the making of false accusations against a national Palestinian group or others.

2. The stick of terrorism and intimidation that the United States is brandishing against whomever opposes its schemes no longer frightens anybody. It should be

noted that the Lockerbie issue, which has been exhausted, cannot serve as a cause for making new accusations. No other alleged issue has been employed more in the history of U.S. intelligence allegations.

3. We in the PFLP-GC emphasize that the U.S. Administration's new onslaught and attempts at political extortion will neither harm our firm position nor affect our definite acquittal of any terrorist action. It should be indicated that the real terrorism is what the United States and its allies are employing against the forces of liberation in the world. The Pan Am charge will not be the last invention of U.S. terrorism against the world's peoples and their just causes.

Revolution until the liberation of man and land.

[Signed] The official spokesman for the PFLP-GC

PLO Official Discusses Washington Peace Talks

AU2402131992 Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 21 Feb 92 p 5

[Interview with Hasan 'Asfur, head of the PLO International Relations Department and member of the Central Committee of the Palestine People's Party, by Kai Metzner; date and place not given: "We Doubt That Substantive Progress Will Be Made"]

[Text] [Metzner] How did the Arab-Israeli negotiations come about in your opinion?

['Asfur] The Palestinian agreement to participate in peace talks is an integral part of the PLO's policy, which is aimed at bringing about a lasting peace. We do not notice on Israel's part, however, any signs of readiness for peace. Israel is taking advantage of the changed international constellation knowing that the U.S. efforts are not aimed at a real peace settlement but rather at establishing its "new world order." In addition, Israel knows that after its victory in the cold war the United States is in an economic confrontation with its ideological allies: Germany and Japan. It wants to defuse the conflict in our region within the framework of its own concept and to employ the results of its war against Iraq to the maximum extent. These are the conditions under which the United States exerted pressure and even forced Israel to go to Madrid.

Everyone knows that Israel is an integral part of the military and economic power structure of the United States. This results in the United States' possessing the possibility of exerting particular influence on Israel's policy. Driven by concern for its hegemony in this region, the U.S. Administration became active. It says that UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are the basis of its activities. Thus, it commits itself to a solution on the basis of an Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied in 1967.

[Metzner] Why did the Palestinian delegation not participate in the talks in Moscow?

['Asfur] In discussing the problems of the Middle East region in Moscow, Israel continued to insist on excluding representatives of the Palestinian people who live outside occupied Palestine. We categorically refused to bow to this dictate because the problems of the region affect the entire Palestinian people. The Moscow conference was an international conference, one attended by 36 states. All of them except for Israel emphasized the need for authentic Palestinian participation. We stated that we will not participate in any kind of regional conference at which the Palestinian people's right to participate with representatives determined by the people themselves is called into question. It is an illusion to believe that Israel will be able to normalize its relations with other Arab states without withdrawing from occupied Palestine and the other Arab territories.

[Metzner] What is your goal—short term and long term—in the negotiations?

['Asfur] The political solution we are striving for would take place in two stages: a transitional settlement and a final one. The third multilateral and the fourth bilateral rounds of negotiations are to take place on 24 February. We finally want to discuss with the Israeli delegation the documents that we gave them on 14 and 15 January. In these documents we explained concrete steps in the direction of a transitional settlement. The first item on the agenda must be the discussion of a stop to settlements and the observance of the fourth Geneva Convention (about protecting civilians in times of war—the editor). We doubt that substantive progress will be made, however, because both the government coalition and the opposition Israeli Labor Party are in favor of continuing the settlement policy and say: no withdrawal from the occupied territories. Everyone should, however, be aware of the fact that the continuation of the settlements means an end to the peace negotiations.

[Metzner] How do you assess the German Government's Middle East policy?

['Asfur] We are convinced that the European states have a particular historical obligation to contribute to solving a problem that they created: the problem of Palestine. Europe's states speak of a peace policy, but their practical peace policy is extremely modest. This applies in particular to united Germany. We say that the FRG's economic and military support of Israel is directed against the vital interests of our people. We believe that any economic support for Israel constitutes direct financing of the settlement policy with all of its consequences.

Commentary Praises U.S. Policy 'Transformation'

LD2602211992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, why the extension [of the peace talks] and why the talks in Washington and why the Arabs, who

have suffered from the successive U.S. Administrations, appear to hold on to Washington as a venue for the negotiations more than does Israel—the historical adopted child of the United States—which since the first round of talks has proposed to transfer the venue of the talks to a nearby or another region? These are fundamental and important issues, and it is essential that public opinion be made aware of them, so that the truth becomes an open book which the Zionist propaganda, unlike in the past decades, will not be able to close.

First, the extension of the talks is a Palestinian and Jordanian demand; the Palestinian delegation and the Jordanian delegation, and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation do not like wasting time. Nor do they want to stop at procedural issues and and continue revolving around them without progressing to the fundamental issues, and without achieving any concrete progress to show that the peace horizon has been opened to reality and that it will not remain the prisoner of a long, boring, and exhausting dream.

The Palestinians, more than anybody else in this world, have their hands in the fire. Every day there are martyrs and victims, and every moment there are detentions, curfews, and individual and collective terrorism beyond human endurance. And on top of this, there are settlements, the confiscation of land, Judaization, and uprooting. Therefore, we the Palestinians are eager to hold onto the fundamental issues so that the Palestinian salvation from occupation comes within the reach of hope. Every delay makes us bleed, and every incident of slackness causes more martyrs and aggravates our sufferings. Therefore, we support the extension [of the peace talks] until we reach what is fundamental.

Israel's rejection of the extension is natural. And we can read through it that Israel is unwilling to deal with the fundamental issues under any circumstances. Or, more precisely, it is not seeking to attain the peace about which it made so much fuss when the Arabs wanted all or nothing. Peace is the antithesis of the Israeli plan, and therefore obstructing it by all means is the only core issue [for Israel].

Second, as for the holding onto the Washington talks—which Israel categorically rejects despite the aforementioned eternal U.S.-Israeli love affair and U.S. animosity toward the Arabs—the matter is not so much concerned with love and animosity as with an escape attempt on the part of Israel. The petrified Israeli officials, particularly those in the Likud party, have not yet become privy to the changes which deeply affected, and still do, our world. They do not see that new states have arisen and that others have fallen, and that these dissolutions have for the most part affected the new and even established states, and that this grand political process is a historic and irreplaceable opportunity. The world is no longer a world of might and contentiousness, if not at the present then at least in the near future. The new world order cannot tolerate racist states or states based on religion and religious fanaticism, or states that regard their citizens as chosen people.

Third: The Palestinians have chosen the United States as guarantor and sponsor—after the latter had virtually imposed this on them—because they have begun to see in the U.S. policy a kind of transformation in the direction of effecting what is right and a commitment to the implementation of international legitimacy. The Palestinians also believe that the U.S. leadership of the world and of the new world order requires an adjustment in the compass. Therefore, Palestinian trust in the United States increases with every [U.S.] move toward the balance of justice. We are aware that the U.S. Administration is not an entirely iron-disciplined whole. There are various tendencies in it, but we trust that these tendencies will agree on what, in the final analysis, is right. This is perhaps a Palestinian bet, but it is at any rate a called-for bet, for a beam of light may be followed by a flood of light.

Algeria

$1.5 Billion Loan, Debt Rescheduling Obtained

LD2602205492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1818 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Unscheduled report from Paris by correspondent Kader Brahimi during studio interview with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali on the "Forum-Alternation" program]

[Text] We have just learned from a source close to the Credit Lyonnais Bank that the long-awaited signing has taken place of the agreement to reschedule Algeria's debt. A group of French, Italian, U.S., Japanese, and Franco-Arab banks, a total of 240 commercial banks, has made a $1.5 billion loan to Algeria. These $1.5 billion should enable Algeria to spread over eight years, with a three-year grace period, the payment dates which, due to unfortunate scheduling, fall close to one another between October 1991 and March 1993.

Thanks to this $1.5 billion loan, once 1992 has ended the financial noose gripping Algeria should then noticeably loosen.

Ghozali on Loan, Recovery of State Property

LD2702001792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali by Abdelghani Toualbi on the "Alternation" program on 26 February; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In Paris, the banking group headed by Credit Lyonnais has signed an agreement to reschedule part of Algeria's debt. The agreement concerns credit of about $1.5 billion. [passage omitted] At the time that the news of this agreement was made known, Prime Minister Mr. Ghozali was in our studio as the guest of the program "Alternation," which is presented by Abdelghani Toualbi. In Mr. Ghozali's opinion it is good that this agreement has been concluded, but it is not enough to solve Algeria's problems.

[Ghozali] "You should know that whatever the circumstances, Algeria pays out $8 billion in repaying its foreign repayment debt—$8 billion."

[Toualbi] "Seventy-five percent of the revenue..."

[Ghozali, interrupting] "Per year. Seventy-five percent of the revenue, and this refinancing operation was a matter of taking part of this $8 billion [word indistinct] and attempting to raise credit with a consortium of banks. [passage omitted] This matter was agreed in principle two years ago and it has been under negotiation for a long time, and without disruptions arising [words indistinct] in particular... [changes thought] I believe that internal and external political disruptions have resulted in its being dragged out. I do not want this to be understood by Algerians—as they were told last summer—as a process which is refinancing all of Algeria's debt; it is 1.5 billion, compared with 8 billion per year. [passage omitted] It is a matter of refinancing. In other words, we are going to be loaned 1.5 billion, which we will not receive."

[Toualbi] "Which will be given to our creditors."

[Ghozali] "Before we are given it the creditors will take it, but it represents an alleviation of the balance of payments—for a year, two years, or three years—of $1.5 billion. It is good that this matter, which has been dragging on for a long time, has been concluded, but it is absolutely not enough to solve Algeria's problems."

[Announcer] Also this evening, Mr. Ghozali referred to the declared intention of the Higher State Council to recover state property held by political parties. He also reacted to the APS report citing Mr. Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front [FLN], as saying that the FLN is prepared to cooperate with the ad hoc commission that the Higher State Council is considering establishing, a commission which would compile an inventory of state property held by parties. [passage omitted] Mr. Mehri also emphasized that the question of the property in the hands of the FLN was examined about two years ago by the state services, and according to Mr. Mehri an agreement was reached concerning solutions to this question. Here is Mr. Ghozali's reaction:

[Ghozali] "The state of this case to my knowledge, to the knowledge of my government, is not at all as described. It is correct that the file was opened by the previous government. The results attained were an inventory of all the property in question, but to my knowledge... [changes thought] in any case the file I have inherited does not contain any agreement, so the file remains open and the government is prepared to deal with this matter, but no one should lead anyone to believe that this case has been settled. In any case, I absolutely have not inherited a file which is closed or settled—far from it. The file remains open. It thus remains for us to examine this inventory and see what belongs to the parties and what belongs to the state.

"The decision by the Higher State Council concerns all state property in the hands of the various parties, but it is clear that we will start a long way ahead with what we have to tackle with the FLN."

[Announcer] On the subject of the economy, here are several points from this program: In the opinion of the prime minister state companies which are not viable should disappear. This will apply to all sectors of economic activity, Mr. Ghozali said. Certain economic sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and trade will be better served by private rather than state management, he specified. He also reiterated the need to maintain a powerful public sector and expressed the view that privatization is not an infallible remedy for Algeria's

problems: If I were convinced that privatization would solve Algeria's problems I would not deprive myself of it, he emphasized.

Mr. Ghozali also said that it would be a good thing if private foreign banks established themselves in Algeria but that there is still reticence abroad due to the political situation in the country. Mr. Ghozali said that the Sonatrach fuel company is engaged in negotiations with several foreign companies involved in development and prospecting; they are being asked to commit themselves for 10 to 15 years and to pay in advance. He expressed the view that these companies will begin operations in Algeria when they feel certain that the country has regained its credibility.

These were some extracts from the "Alternation" program with Abdelghani Toualbi, who hosted the prime minister as his guest.

FLN's Mehri on Recovery of State-Owned Property

LD2602235292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] The Higher State Council, at its meeting yesterday chaired by Mohamed Boudiaf, set up a special committee to compile a list of state-owned real estate in the possession of parties, and to restore this to the state.

After the Higher State Council issued its communique on this matter, the first reaction by a political party came from Abdelhamid Mehri, National Liberation Front [FLN] secretary general, who questioned the position that this issue enjoys among the state's priorities. Mehri said today in a statement to APS that the issue of the [state] property in the possession of the FLN has been the subject of lengthy discussions with the state's departments for almost two years, and he emphasized in this respect that an agreement on models for dealing with this issue has been reached.

Abdelhamid Mehri emphasized that the FLN is waiting for the setting up of this committee, that it is prepared to deal with it, and that it hopes that the solutions it agrees upon will be in conformity with the laws in force.

Ministry To Appoint Imams in 40 Percent of Mosques

LD2602230692 Algiers APS in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, 26 Feb (APS)—Religious Affairs Minister Mr. Sassi Lamouri told APS on Tuesday that he wants "the mosque to be a center of light and a source of love, compassion, peace, and worship far from the deviationist political activity that seeks to stir up sedition among the ranks of Muslims and lead them away from the rule of God." Replying to a question about the law concerning the separation of political activity from the mosque, the minister said: "The politics that the law has prohibited in the mosques is party politics, which is very far from the shariah and which seeks to divide the unity of the nation. Sermons which fall within the boundaries of Islamic law and which do not carry a background of party politics, however, will not be prohibited."

As for the prohibition of prayers near mosques, Mr. Sassi Lamouri made it clear that if "the prayers near mosques had not created unrest and sedition, the decision banning them would not have been issued," which he said has come about "in a particular circumstance to maintain public order and security, and it is temporary." The minister said that he considered what has recently happened to be not a "jihad but rather sedition." The minister added that it is impermissible for anybody to "issue a fatwah [Islamic ruling] permitting the shedding of Muslims' blood, for the [Islamic] law has defined the cases in which this should be done."

Regarding imams' role in mosques, Mr. Sassi Lamouri said that "respect for imams will be restored and no one will be allowed to impose themselves on them and assume the duties of an imam unless they are appointed and possess the necessary competence. Those who volunteer to give a sermon or guidance will have to meet a few criteria, including competence and qualifications." This is because the infiltrators, as he put it, "had no intention of serving religion, and everybody began preaching in mosques." He added that the ministry [of religious affairs] will seek to appoint imams to about 40 percent of the 9,073 mosques throughout the country.

As for the ministry's new program, the minister said: "Work will continue on the existing program with the addition of very little according to the circumstances so as to restore the standing of the state." [sentence as received] In reply to a question on his political affiliation, the minister indicated that he does not belong to any party, and he said: "If I belonged to an Islamic trend, this would be a weakness because Islam is a force greater than everything."

Socialist Forces Front Leader Calls for Democracy

PM2602124492 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 Feb 92 p 4

[Interview with Socialist Forces Front leader Hocine Ait Ahmed by Mahmud Ma'ruf and Mustafa al-'Iraqi in Casablanca; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] How do you view the situation in Algeria?

[Ait Ahmed] The current situation reflects developments that have accumulated since the middle of last year, specifically since the announcement in June of the state of siege, which we believe helped to exacerbate Algerian society's problems and which obstructed its democratic march. At the time we said that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] lost much of its reputation and influence as a result of the earlier incidents, and we warned that the announcement of the state of siege would restore the Front's influence. But (Prime Minister) Sid Ahmed Ghozali played all his cards with his conduct before the elections, especially his security plan, which he referred

to the People's Assembly in order to become a presidential candidate. [passage omitted]

We believed, and still believe, that the FIS' winning a parliamentary majority would not pose a threat to democracy as long as the president of the Republic exercises his extensive powers, which allow him to safeguard democracy, and as long as he can dissolve the People's Assembly if it rejects a bill. If the matter, or the 11 January incident, was not really aimed against democracy, they would have waited until the FIS was implicated in attacking society's rights, and then intervened. But the problem is that in view of the June 1991 and January 1992 incidents, the rulers do not believe in holding power in turn or in the democratic process. The fear of fundamentalism is a reason or an excuse to obstruct democracy. In fact, some members of the authorities aided the FIS in order to prepare the political atmosphere for a coup.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] You referred to "the rulers," and as is known, the presidency is the center of power in Third World states, and President Chadli Bendjedid has resigned. Therefore, who are the rulers?

[Ait Ahmed] Those who carried out the operation, namely the Army and the political police, who returned in strength after the June incidents of last year. It seems to me that Chadli Bendjedid aroused deep resentment within that organ after its dissolution in September 1990. When the June incidents took place the political police's role and influence were restored. Their role and influence continued after that, and the diplomatic corps in Algeria bears witness to that organ's return. [passage omitted]

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] Are you still confident that the elections will lead to a change of regime after what has happened in Algeria?

[Ait Ahmed] I am confident of that and believe it will happen. It will be achieved if we learn from history and from what has happened, and we form an unbiased government comprised of respectable figures—and these do exist in Algeria. And also if we reexamine the electoral laws.

We have a proposal for extricating ourselves from the current crisis: to form a government with the task of electing the constituent assembly, which would draw up an electoral law based on proportional representation and the implementation of the Constitution. This is because these are the only solutions to the crisis, for they would restore confidence in elections. [passage omitted]

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] Will you participate in the advisory council that is to be formed?

[Ait Ahmed] We have no knowledge of that council, which proves that there was no consultation, contrary to the rumors that we hear. Therefore, that council represents not the parties but rather individual figures. So, on what basis would we participate in any organization? What is its form and role? We are a political party and should be consulted about it.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] Why did you refuse to attend the meeting with Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf prior to the announcement of the state of emergency?

[Ait Ahmed] We boycotted it because they first invited us as a delegation then said, no, one person is enough, so that we, like the other parties, would be informed of the measures taken by the Higher Security Council. We thus preferred not to attend. It was a matter of dignity and political respect for us as a party. We regret the lack of dialogue and realize that the way out of the crisis can only be through dialogue. [passage omitted]

Union Suspends Participation in Talks With State

LD2602083192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] The National Union of Public Contractors has decided to freeze its participation in the regular tripartite meetings held since last year with representatives of the government and the General Union of Algerian Workers. In a statement issued yesterday the contractors union justified its decision by citing the ineffectiveness of the actual measures for the financial cleansing of institutions and the nonfulfilment of the pledges that the government made on 22 November. The three parties agreed on that date on a number of issues including the speedy financial cleansing of public institutions and the settlement of debts of the institutions and the public administration.

The tripartite meetings aim at solving the economic, vocational, and social problems of institutions.

Egypt

Joint Egyptian-Libyan Committee Meeting Convened

Preparatory Meetings Held

NC2302202092 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Preparatory meetings for the second round of the Joint Egyptian-Libyan Higher Committee talks began this morning in Cairo.

The Egyptian side was chaired by Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; and the Libyan side by 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee for Agricultural Reform and Land Reclamation in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and Mr. Muhammad Mahmud al-Hijazi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Integration with the Arab Republic of Egypt Affairs.

Dr. Maurice Makramallah delivered a speech in which he highlighted the Egyptian-Libyan experiment in solidifying the bases for integration and cooperation between the two fraternal countries. The minister of state for international

cooperation affirmed that the results of the committee's meetings will be presented during the meetings of the Joint Egyptian-Libyan Higher Committee, under the chairmanship of the prime ministers of the two countries. The Joint Egyptian-Libyan Higher Committee will meet after the conclusion of this committee's meetings.

Libyan Delegation Arrives

NC2502152992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo 25 Feb (MENA)—Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, arrived in Cairo at noon today, leading the Libyan delegation to the meetings of the Joint Egyptian-Libyan Higher Committee, which will open in Cairo this evening. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah held a meeting as soon as the latter arrived at the guest palace where he is staying. The Libyan official is accompanied by the secretaries of the Libyan people's committees for strategic industries, agriculture, electricity, transportation, justice, higher education, general education, vocational training, light industries, marine wealth, oil, the (al-Jabal al-Akhdar) municipality, and integration affairs with Egypt; and the central bank governor.

Sidqi Previews Talks

NC2502221592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The meetings of the Joint Egyptian-Libyan Higher Committee's second session will begin this evening, under the prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, and brother Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, who arrived in Cairo today.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi told our correspondent these meetings are additional bricks in the structure of integration between Egypt and Libya. He noted that much progress has been made since the first meeting of the Egyptian-Libyan committee, and his attendance at the meetings in Banghazi in July. He said the goal of these meetings is to achieve the greatest degree of integration between the two fraternal countries in all fields; especially economy, trade, social, investment, transport, information, culture, construction, agriculture, health, and education. He pointed out that the two sides are exerting utmost efforts to advance the cooperation process on firm and technical foundations.

Durdah expressed the appreciation of the Libyan leader, government, and people for Egypt, its people, and President Mubarak—for their strong support of Libya in the face of U.S. and European accusations. He said the higher committee will discuss the measures taken to implement integration agreements and take new steps to strengthen integration in all fields, opening new vistas for action.

In response to a question by our radio correspondent on whether he is carrying a message from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for President Mubarak, Durdah said that brother al-Qadhdahfi and President Mubarak maintain almost daily direct contact.

Committee Meetings Open 25 Feb

NC2602085392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—Meetings of the second session of the Joint Egyptian-Libyan Higher Committee, chaired by Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the prime minister, and Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, opened here this evening.

Dr. Sidqi and the Libyan secretary held a brief meeting at the prime minister's office before joining the delegations.

The Egyptian delegation is made up of the deputy prime minister, who is also the minister of agriculture; the Central Bank governor; and the ministers of social affairs, housing, electricity, information, public works, irrigation, industry, health, economy, finance, manpower, justice, interior, education, and petroleum. In addition, the minister of state for international cooperation and the minister of state for cabinet affairs are delegation members.

The Libyan delegation comprises the secretaries of the people's committees for agriculture, electricity, communications, justice, higher education, general education, amenities, vocational training, light industries, marine wealth, and petroleum. In addition, a municipal leader, the Central Bank governor, and the secretary of cooperation affairs with Egypt are delegation members.

JANA Reports Opening

LD2702103192 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, al-Nawwar [February] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary and members of the General People's Committee in the Great Jamahiriyah arrived in Cairo yesterday to attend the meetings of the 3rd session of the Arab-Libyan-Egyptian High Joint Committee which start today.

A magnificent reception was given where Dr. 'Atif Sidqi the Egyptian prime minister headed the welcoming party. The two deputies of the Egyptian Prime Minister, the ministers and senior officials in the Arab Republic of Egypt, delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the Arab League and the members of the Arab-Libyan-Egyptian affairs follow-up bureau in Egypt took part in the reception.

The secretary of the General People's Committee made a statement to the press expressing his thanks and appreciation for the warm reception extended to him and the members of his accompanying delegation.

He said: "As we attend the third session of the Arab-Libyan-Egyptian High Committee which is being held for the second time in Cairo we avail ourselves of this opportunity to express on behalf of the brothers in Libya the great appreciation for the support of the brothers in Egypt beside the Great Jamahiriyah against the neo colonialist campaign."

He added that this solid stance is greatly appreciated in the Great Jamahiriyah and stated that the Arab-Libyan-Egyptian High Committee will conduct a review of all the measures taken to implement the integration agreements.

It will also will take further constructive steps to strengthen brotherly integration in all areas and seek new horizons to approach the day of the unity of the people of the one Arab nation in the Great Jamahiriyah and Egpyt.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi the Egyptian prime minister welcomed the secretary and members of the General People's Committee and stated that the arrival of this high-ranking delegation signifies the great attention paid to the promotion of brotherly relations between the two countries.

He indicated that the third session of the Arab-Libyan-Egyptian High Committee will enhance the build-up of integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

A talks session [word indistinct] immediately after between the secretary of the General People's Committee and Dr. 'Atif Sidqi the Egyptian prime minister.

Al-Sharif Views Meeting Results

NC2602100592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2147 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—At its meeting this evening, under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, and his Libyan counterpart Abu-Zayd 'Umar, the Joint Egyptian-Libyan Higher Committee reviewed the international changes and the events and issues of the Arab nation.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif announced this after the three-hour session.

Al-Sharif said Dr. Sidqi noted that the peace process is important both at the Arab and international levels as an attempt to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, despite all the obstacles Israel is creating.

Dr. Sidqi referred to the outcome of the ongoing meetings and contacts between Egypt and Libya at the level of political leadership, ministers, and senior officials for coordination and consolidation of cooperation for the good and interest of the two peoples.

Dr. Sidqi emphasized the importance of assessing the measures already taken in the joint cooperation in implementation of the 10 agreements signed between the two countries.

At the meeting, Dr. Sidqi discussed the latest developments in fraternal Algeria, and Egypt's follow-up and support for Algeria's march to achieve stability and prosperity.

He also referred to the worsening situation in southern Lebanon and Israel's acts, which are incompatible with the peace process, although Lebanon has joined that process. [sentence as received]

The information minister said that Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, expressed Libya's appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's stands, intensive efforts, and clear and positive position on the dispute between Libya and the United States and France, as well as for President Mubarak's sincere wish to settle this dispute. He noted the established, firm, and distinguished trust between President Mubarak and brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Durdah said that the international changes impose inevitable integration, coordination, and cooperation between the two countries in the economy, investment, manpower, expansion of trade exchanges, and development of communications and transportation between them.

Durdah emphasized Libya's concern for overcoming all obstacles and problems affecting the process of cooperation and integration, and the importance of a continuing dialogue to organize means of cooperation between the two countries.

The information minister said that the committee reviewed the conclusions reached by the preparatory committee in its meetings in Cairo in the last two days, and discussed and assessed the recommendations of the economic, trade, financial, technical, production, cultural, services, security, and judicial affairs subcommittees.

He added that the discussion demonstrated the extent of cohesion between the two fraternal peoples, and noted that this was apparent in the trade between the two countries. This exchange recently reached more than 1.25 billion Egyptian pounds, which represents positive economic and social aspects.

The information minister noted Abu-Zayd's (?statement) about the need to continue to enlarge the scope of freedom of travel and residence, and to remove existing obstacles. Abu-Zayd also referred to inaccurate newspaper reports that some Egyptian brothers were mistreated, and asserted that they enjoy good treatment in Libya and that any isolated incident should not be interpreted and publicized as a phenomenon contradicting the truth.

He said that through relations and cooperation between the two peoples, facts can be clarified and citizens of both countries who violate the law can be seriously dealt

with. He noted Libya's concern with not allowing relations between the two countries to be harmed, and said Egyptian and Libyan citizens enjoy the same rights and privileges.

The information minister added that the committee expressed satisfaction with the growing trade, and that agreement was reached between the General Arab Company in Libya and the Arab Company for Foreign Trade in Egypt to remove trade barriers.

The committee welcomed the signing of an accord establishing a joint chamber of commerce to develop trade, and expressed satisfaction with the facilitation of the transit of cars and goods between the two countries.

The two sides expressed appreciation for the implementation of the equal trade exchange deal, signed in February 1991. The Egyptian side will ship the equipment necessary for the operation of Libyan industrial companies. The two sides agreed to ship to Egypt by sea products produced by the Libyan iron and steel complex.

The committee welcomed the start of the Libyan Arab Investment Company, which will invest in Egypt. The committee recommended the encouragement of joint investment between the two countries through the holding company which they have established.

Al-Sharif said that the committee reviewed the agricultural accomplishments represented by the setting up of three Egyptian companies to reclaim land in Libya by using the great river waters, at a cost of 45 million Libyan dinars. A fourth Egyptian company is drilling and cleaning wells in the land reclamation area, at a cost of $20 million.

He added that the joint committee in charge of settlement paid a field visit to the al-Wigh area in southern Libya, where some Egyptian farmers are to be settled. He added that the committee recommended that a fund be set up to finance the studies and research necessary for the settlement and that 2 million Libyan dinars have been allocated for this purpose, in addition to the allocation of 10 million dinars to continue the construction of 28 model farms in that area, as a nucleus for the settlement project.

It has been decided to set up an executive commission in charge of the national settlement project. It has also been decided to set up a joint commission for agricultural research and another commission for combating agricultural blights.

Al-Sharif added that the committee had satisfactorily noted what the two sides have accomplished in the fields of industrial integration and the training of Libyan cadres in Egyptian factories. The committee recommended that studies be made to examine the possibility of concluding an agreement for deep-sea fishing and for joint ventures in the fields of agriculture and fish farming, ensuring that the necessary research ships are available. The committee viewed with satisfaction the steps that the Egyptian side made toward the installation of the 429-km-long al-Sallum-al-'Umayyid electric line, as part of the first stage of the project to connect the electric grids in the two countries. The committee recommended that the generating plants needed for this project and the studies on the second stage of the project be completed; that Libya's need for Egyptian engineers and technicians be met; and for joint cooperation in manufacturing electric equipment and making use of new, renewable, and wind energy sources.

In the field of petroleum, al-Sharif pointed out that an agreement had been reached to establish, with a capital investment of $50 million, an Egyptian-Libyan company for building and operating service stations on Egyptian highways that sell petroleum products. A pipeline will be built between the oil refinery in Tobruk and Alexandria to transfer the Libyan petroleum products needed for these stations. An agreement was also reached to establish a joint company for petroleum projects and services, that will (?implement) the engineering projects needed for the petroleum industry.

In the field of transport and communications, an agreement was concluded between the ministries of transport in both countries to supervise the construction of the Tobruk-al-Sallum railroad by a consortium of companies operating in both countries. Libya has allocated $190 million for the first stage of this project. The committee recommended that coastal and desert roads be built to link the two countries. It was also agreed to provide funds to connect Egypt and Libya by a sea cable. The committee recommended that telephone circuits between the two countries be increased.

In maritime transport, the principle of integration between the Alexandria and the Misratah shipyards was endorsed, particularly toward building ships needed for the Libyan commercial fleet. The committee recommended that the commercial aviation agreement initiated between the two countries be swiftly finalized.

Regarding education, the committee recommended that a study be made to assimilate the educational degrees offered in the two countries. Egypt expressed readiness to meet Libya's need for teachers in various specializations and levels of study. Fifteen cooperation agreements between universities in the two countries were signed last year.

The committee noted with satisfaction the cooperation in the field of housing and reconstruction, through Egyptian contracting companies operating in Libya, the cooperation among the research centers in both countries, the joint manpower training programs, and the drafting of a social insurance agreement between the two countries.

The committee welcomed cooperation in information, and the exchange of visits and delegations in this field. It noted with satisfaction the distribution of newspapers in both countries, that a MENA correspondent has been accredited in Libya, and that work is under way to open

a JANA office in Cairo. The committee recommended that the executive program for cultural and information cooperation be signed.

The committee urged that the procedures for issuing standardized identity cards be accelerated to ease the movement of citizens in both countries. The committee urged cooperation in the security, anti-crime, and anti-narcotics fields.

Al-Sharif concluded by saying that the legislative agreement that will be signed tomorrow [26 February] will provide for the exchange of expertise among forensic medicine departments and research centers, the training of Libyan judicial officials, and the exchange of judicial expertise between the two countries.

Electrical Agreement Detailed

NC2602212892 Cairo MENA in English 1520 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, Feb 26 (MENA)—Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, and Libyan Secretary of Electricity Jum'ah al-Harbash today signed an agreement for electric inter-connection between the northwestern coasts of Egypt and Libya.

As per the agreement the Egyptian Company for Mechanical and Electric Projects will set up the electric link between al-Sallum on the Egyptian-Libyan border and Tobruk in Libya which is 170 kilometers long.

Minister of Electricity Abazah said after the signature of the agreement that the project will be implemented during the coming 24 months.

The project is aimed at connecting the electric grids in the two countries and supplying the necessary energy for urban expansion and the tourist and food security projects in the two countries, especially in Egypt, he added.

Libya is implementing in the meantime the electric connection with Tunisia to complete the joint electric grid in the Arab Maghreb countries he said.

Session Concludes

NC2602220892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] The Joint Egyptian-Libyan Higher Committee concluded its second session tonight. The final meeting was chaired by Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the prime minister, and Abu-Zayd 'Umar, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee.

A number of executive protocols on bilateral cooperation in the fields of maritime and land transport, media, agriculture, and judiciary affairs were signed.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Sidqi praised the spirit of Egyptian-Libyan brotherhood and cooperation. He stressed the important achievements made by the higher committee, which signed 10 agreements on bilateral cooperation. Dr. Sidqi said that the two fraternal peoples are following the road of cooperation and integration under the care and instructions of President Husni Mubarak and Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

Abu-Zayd 'Umar also spoke, and expressed the Libyan people's gratitude for the Egyptian people's and President Mubarak's fraternal support for Libya. He said that the Egyptian and Libyan peoples are moving toward achieving common economic, cultural, and technical goals. He praised the achievements already made in the fields of trade, investment, joint companies, and projects to link the two countries' communications, electricity, roads, and other vital services that strengthen the two fraternal peoples' ties.

Libyans Depart

NC2602221792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, left Cairo this afternoon for Tripoli after a two-day visit to Egypt. He represented his country at the second session of the Joint Egyptian-Libyan Higher Committee meetings. He was seen off at Cairo Airport by the prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, and a number of ministers.

Central African Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC2502142592 Cairo MENA in English 0843 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—A ministerial delegation of the Central African Republic, including the foreign minister, the interior minister, and the minister of planning, arrived here this morning on a two-day visit to Egypt.

The delegation will hold talks with senior officials on means of enhancing cooperation between the two countries in various domains.

Received by Sidqi

NC2502183592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1718 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the prime minister, received in Cairo this evening a delegaton of the Central African Republic comprising the foreign, interior, and economy ministers. During a meeting attended by Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, they discussed bilateral cooperation in economic areas.

President Mubarak Begins Visit to France

WA2702134592

For reportage on the visit by President Husni Mubarak to France, including reports on his talks with President Francois Mitterrand and Defense Minister Pierre Joxe, please see the France section of the 26 February West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Commentary Hails Visit

NC2602161592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Commentary by Ibrahim Wahbi: "The President's Visit to France"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak is currently visiting France and meeting with President Francois Mitterrand, in an attempt to narrow the gaps in the positions of Libya and the three Western countries—France, the United States, and Britain—on the basis of principles Egypt supports. These principles are summed up by the denunciation of all forms of terrorism anywhere, regardless of its causes, and ruling out the use of military force or military solutions.

Egypt's aim is to contain the crisis that resulted from the Western countries' accusations that Libya was involved in the crash of the French and American planes in 1988 and 1989, and Libya's denial of these accusations.

President Mubarak is carrying with him the basis for a solution to any international crisis; namely, international legitimacy and law. We do not believe that anyone can reject these. The president realizes that Egypt has a duty necessitated by its pan-Arab responsibility, and its concern with the Arab nation's security and safety. Egypt did in fact stand behind legitimacy in the Gulf until Kuwait retrieved its territory and rights. Egypt threw all its weight behind Palestinian rights in accordance with the UN resolutions, including 242 and 338. It supported conciliation in Somalia; threatened and warned of the consequences of Israel's practices in Lebanon; and appealed for calm and stability in Algeria, denouncing all foreign intervention.

Egypt is today initiating direct contact with France to prevent an escalation in the crisis between it, the United States, and Britain, and Libya. France is a friendly country and Libya is a fraternal one. The decisive criterion is legitimacy and rule of international law, which Egypt supports. President Mubarak began his action by contacting Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and French President Francois Mitterrand, and he received a positive response from them. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, also contacted the president to voice his support and backing. President Mubarak's visit to France and his meeting with the French president fall within the framework of constant consultations between the Egyptian and French leaders.

The Libyan issue is connected in one way or another to all the Middle East questions and issues, all of which concern security, stability, and peace in the region. The two presidents' talks will also deal with the peace negotiations: Israel's obstacles; its insistence in continuing to build settlements; its provocative practices in south Lebanon; and the Israeli Air Force's unprecedented act of assassination, when it killed the family of the Hizballah leader. The two presidents will also discuss the issue of security in the Middle East. It is known that France has repeatedly declared that Europe's security is linked to that of the Middle East.

Egypt has international weight, while France is a force to be reckoned with in the EC and is an influential world power. France is pursuing an active, positive policy that influences the movement of issues toward the desired goals. Egypt's ultimate goal is to underline peace and peaceful ways to resolve disputes, as well as reject all forms and types of terrorism.

U.S. Policy on Loan Guarantees 'Insufficient'

NC2702062492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2216 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper has emphasized that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement, giving Israel the choice between freezing settlements and obtaining the $10 billion in loan guarantees, is absolutely insufficient to make Israel subscribe to the principles of U.S. policy. In its Thursday editorial, AL-AHRAM said that a freeze on settlements does not mean cancellation or a final halt, but a phased stop between unleashing the construction drive and halting it. If we add to this the fact that the United States, in the words of James Baker, supports the principle of helping Israel assimilate the immigrants, it becomes certain that a freeze on settlements is merely a transitional stage.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM asks: Would it not have been more correct and suitable [awfaq] for the United States to stipulate that for Israel to obtain the loans and aid, it must comply with its international obligations in implementing the Security Council resolutions providing for immediate withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories? The paper asserts that withdrawal is what will solve the settlement problem.

Al-Baz Says Iraqi Threat to Region 'Over'

NC2602124492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for political affairs, has affirmed that the threat which the Iraqi regime posed to the region recently is actually over. He added that this threat does not exist because it is subject to scrutiny and observation by more than one quarter, and the majority of countries and international organizations.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today, al-Baz noted that talk about the Iraqi regime and whether or not it will stay in power should not distract our attention from the Iraqi people, who suffered and continue to suffer much at the hands of this regime. The Egyptian political official called for handling the issue of mending the inter-Arab rift with openness, to enable each party to know each other's true stand and the course each will take.

Dr. al-Baz stressed the need for progress in the current peace talks, hand in hand with progress in mending the Arab rift, because this will ensure that the interests of all parties will be balanced. Dr. al-Baz emphasized that Iraq's unity is a pan-Arab demand, and failure to preserve it will pose a great threat to the interests of the Arab world. He said one question remains after the Gulf crisis; namely, have the sources of threat to Arab security changed?

Toppling Saddam Seen Contrary to 'Principle'

NC2302193592 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 17 Feb 92 p 9

["Weeklies" column by 'Abd-al-Latif al-Hanafi: "Would Saddam's Fall Inject Life Into Bush's Election Campaign?"]

[Excerpts] I do not believe that Egypt was, is, or will be at all concerned with the occasional calls of certain people, for the need to topple Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as a precondition to Iraq restoring its international standing and normal relations with the countries of the world. It was reported a few days ago that the CIA director will tour a number of Middle Eastern capitals with the main goal of discussing a U.S. plan to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Egypt was careful to declare publicly that it had nothing to do with this and that it considered Saddam's survival or downfall a domestic issue that only concerns the Iraqi people.

I have an unshakeable conviction that this is a principled Egyptian position, no matter what views Egypt holds of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his regime, and regardless of the obstruction and negative effect his survival has on Egypt's efforts to bring Arabs together again and revive Arab solidarity, which is one of the pillars of Egypt's policy and strategy to resolve new or chronic Arab crises.

Western countries and certain leaders, particularly U.S. President George Bush, may have some interest in toppling Saddam Husayn. President Bush is facing a fierce presidential election campaign, which he decided to wage with the slogan "America is the leader of the world"; he could not find a better slogan, given the deteriorating economy and stagnation that has lasted for well over 18 months and is not likely to end soon. [passage omitted]

In a nutshell, overthrowing Saddam Husayn might be a U.S. election issue, but is in no way an Egyptian one, because Egypt strongly upholds the view that people are the masters of their fate, and that interference in their domestic affairs is improper for any reason or justifications. This position, however, does not mean that we must turn a blind eye to the ugly violations of human rights that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn committed and still commits in Iraq and Kuwait. Nor does it mean we will cease calling on the Iraqi people to continue their vigilance and heroic action to get rid of Saddam Husayn and his clique, and to establish a national democratic regime to replace the repressive dictatorial one. We must not hesitate to provide support to the various Iraqi opposition groups that have been acting for a long time to expose Saddam Husayn's regime and incite the people to rebel against it. The only condition we have is that the opposition groups must be careful to step up their political action inside Iraq, and that their presence abroad must be merely a facade for a mature, national, and political action among the Iraqi people and throughout Iraqi cities, villages, and the countryside—political action based on a comprehensive and national foundation and not on a religious or ethnic one. [passage omitted]

Toppling Saddam Husayn might be a U.S. election issue, but it will never be an Egyptian one. As Saddam's existence and occupation of Kuwait provided the United States with the opportunity to orchestrate the festival of its coronation as leader of the whole world, and not just the free world, and as his survival enabled the United States to strip Iraq of its military capabilities easily and for nothing, his fall might at one point inject life into President Bush' electoral campaign, enabling him to win and stay in the White House for another term. Anyway, we wish President Bush success, but we will continue to uphold our commitment to defending the principle of noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries and respecting peoples' will, simply because we believe that it is an Egyptian principle and one of the principles of international law and legality.

Turkish Minister on Cooperation in Central Asia

NC2602203592 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Feb 92 p 5

[Interview with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin by AL-AHRAM correspondent Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi in Ankara; date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Hadi] There is a prevailing conviction that Turkey and Egypt are competing for influence in the Islamic republics in Central Asia that gained independence from the former Soviet Union. Is this true, particularly in light of the summit between Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan to discuss ties with these republics?

[Cetin] There is absolutely no competition. There is a new era of cooperation between the regional powers. Egypt and Turkey are models of this cooperation. Turkey does not compete with anyone, nor does Egypt, and I hope that there will be no competition in the

future. We are bound to these republics by cultural, historic, linguistic, and religious ties. These republics now have a new political and economic order. We have agreed with Egypt to assist and support these republics.

['Abd-al-Hadi] What is the significance of cooperation between Egypt and Turkey, in their capacity as two regional powers, and what form will the expected cooperation take?

[Cetin] Egypt and Turkey are two important countries. They are factors in regional stability. We have assessed all stands in the region and the world, and I believe that our agreement to have full political coordination will play an important role in future relations and cooperation in the region. Our recent contacts and consultations with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa were extremely useful and fruitful. We drew up plans for political, economic, and commercial bilateral cooperation with the Islamic republics. What is important is that we should work continuously to promote these relations to involve all domains.

['Abd-al-Hadi] Regarding the Middle East, what form will coordination take and how do you view Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's anti-peace stand? Do you think that the Israeli elections are an opportunity to maneuver and waste time?

[Cetin] Turkey believes that dialogue and negotiations are the best way to resolve problems and disputes. We can see Israel is having difficulty taking steps toward peace in light of the elections. Peace requires courage, time, and patience. While Israel has to demonstrate courage, Palestinians must exercise patience, because solving problems takes time.

['Abd-al-Hadi] If Turkey is accepted as an EC member, what will the future of political coordination with Egypt be, particularly regarding peace in the region?

[Cetin] First, we are part of the Islamic world, and thus believe that the essence of peace lies in enabling Palestinians to obtain their legitimate rights and their occupied land. Our position will remain the same: Israel must withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories, because otherwise there can be no peace in the Middle East. There is full agreement between Turkey and Egypt on this issue, and we both support international efforts to establish peace. We will increase our understanding and coordination with Egypt.

['Abd-al-Hadi] In confronting extremism by certain Islamic factions, what can be done to show the true face of Islam, which renounces violence and terrorism?

[Cetin] Our countries are similar in their moderation and consideration of human rights and freedom. This attitude enhances democracy. Turkey is a secular country and believes that the people have a right to make their own personal decisions on their behavior. I believe that we are an important model for other countries of the region. Anyone who wants to pray can do so, and anyone who wants to go to nightclubs can also do so. Everyone is free in his behavior. I believe that we are good and true Muslims. In our country we view fundamentalism positively, in the sense that we welcome every religious man, provided he does not use force or violence. The teachings of Islam that we must follow are welcome, provided they are not exploited to achieve goals through violence.

Libya

Butrus Ghali Meets al-Qadhdhafi Special Envoy

AU2602201092 Paris AFP in English 1917 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Geneva, Feb 26 (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Butrus Ghali met here Wednesday [26 February] with Colonel Yusuf al-Dibri, head of the Libyan secret service and a special envoy of leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, a U.N. spokesman said.

The 30-minute meeting at the U.N. centre focused on U.N. Security Council resolutions calling on Libya to cooperate with investigations by France, Britain and the United States into the 1989 bombing of a UTA airliner and the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner, in which a total of 470 people were killed.

"Everything was excellent," Butrus Ghali told the press after his meeting.

The secretary general Wednesday morning sent back to Tripoli his emissary Vasiliy Safronchuk, who had briefed him on talks he had with al-Qadhdhafi on Monday.

On January 21, the Security Council had called for the extradition of two Libyan suspects wanted in connection with the terrorist bombing of the Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, in Scotland.

Libya has said it is prepared to cooperate in the investigations, but has refused to extradite its citizens.

Envoy: Mubarak's Paris Visit 'Positive Step'

NC2702062992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki, Libya's representative to the Arab League, has affirmed that President Mubarak's visit to France comes at an appropriate time; and that it is considered a positive step toward finding a solution to the dispute between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France regarding the incidents involving the American and French planes.

The Libyan official expressed his hope that President Mubarak's efforts will be crowned with success in reaching a solution to the Libyan-U.S.-French-British dispute, within the framework of international law and Libya's national sovereignty.

Morocco

France's Dumas To Quell 'Misunderstandings'

LD2602210192 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Excerpt] [French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs] Roland Dumas has just arrived in Rabat on a 48-hour visit intended to give a new boost to French-Moroccan relations. It should be noted that over the last two years there have been regular quarrels with the backdrop of Gilles Perrault's book [critical of King Hassan II], the Diouri affair [Moroccan author Abdelmoumen Diouri who lives in France and who criticized Hassan II's grip on Morocco's economic resources], and recently the release of Abraham Serfati [formerly the longest-serving Moroccan political prisoner and who is married to Frenchwoman] and the Bourequat brothers [French-Moroccan brothers held for 18 years without charge]. Today Paris and Rabat are going to attempt to clear up the misunderstandings, as they are described in diplomatic terms.

Economic relations between the two countries will also be discussed. [passage omitted]

Sudan

8,000 Iranian Troops Stationed in South

NC2602172292 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 24 Feb 92 p 15

[Report by Tahiyah 'Abd-al-Wahhab]

[Text] ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that 8,000 troops of the Iranian national guard [as published] are stationed in southern Sudan under the guise of being construction workers. The Iranian Government is paying all their costs. Seven of these soldiers were killed in a battle 700 km from Juba, in the south, between forces of the Sudanese Government and opposition forces.

Further on Iranian Military Involvement

PM2602131292 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Feb 92 pp 1, 4

['Uthman Mirghani report: "Iranian Officers Accompanied al-Bashir to Juba"]

[Text] London—Informed military sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that three Iranian officers accompanied Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, during his visit to Juba city (the capital of southern Sudan) last week. This took place within the framework of the preparations being made by the Sudanese Government to launch a major offensive against the Garang movement forces.

Iranian sources contacted in Tehran confirmed that Iranian intelligence officers and strategy planners did indeed visit "positions in combat operation zones in southern Sudan." But the sources refused to give any details about the positions or the mission carried out by the Iranian officers.

The sources denied the participation or killing of any Iranian Army personnel in combat operations in southern Sudan. This was in reply to recent reports that Iranian soldiers fought alongside government forces in battles in southern Sudan and that five of them were killed in an ambush set by Garang's forces near Torit.

Senior Garang movement officials in Nairobi contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT have denied that a major military campaign has begun in southern Sudan. They said that no significant change has occurred in the situation.

But they added that they expect Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's government to begin its offensive—for which it has been preparing for some weeks—at the end of this month or in the first half of next month.

They also said that they had detected the delivery of new weapons, additional forces, and supplies to southern positions that they refused to identify. One of these officials said that they had sufficient information about the plan for an offensive. He said that they had also detected Iranian movements in the South. He said: "The military front's [al-jabhah al-'askariayah] government wants to involve the Iranians in the fighting to help it to operate some of the new weapons that it has acquired from Tehran."

Iranian sources said that Tehran supplied Sudan with "limited quantities of arms including a number of armored personnel carriers, mobile recoilless antiaircraft guns, military ambulances, two field hospitals, and mobile communication systems.

There is currently an Iranian military mission at the Iranian Embassy in Khartoum. The mission comprises 22 people, including officers from all three branches of the regular forces (the ground forces, the Air Force, and the Navy), in addition to Revolutionary Guard officers.

Sudan and Iran signed a military cooperation agreement last year. Last December and January two Iranian delegations visited Khartoum to study Khartoum's requirements for arms, logistical supplies, and training. Groups of Iranian military personnel—so far some 3,000 officers and troops—have arrived in Sudan over the past few months.

On their arrival these military personnel are assembled in a special center behind Kabar Prison in Khartoum and then sent to various areas in Sudan according to the role of each group. Some of these groups, which include members of the Revolutionary Guard, supervise training camps in eastern Sudan, Khartoum's suburbs, and the northern province.

Some groups work as experts with the Sudanese Army in the South. This is in addition to other groups which operate in the field of propagation [al-da'wah] in various Islamic centers.

Other groups are distributed in secret locations in Khartoum. Their main task is to protect the regime against any military coup attempt or popular revolution until members of the front's cadres complete their training in Iran.

Tehran has denied that any of its naval vessels are stationed in Sudanese ports, but it admitted that two Navy ships visited Sudan at the end of last year after escorting the Iranian ships "that carried military gifts" from Tehran to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's government.

Al-Bashir Addresses National Assembly Session

EA2602191092 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1338 GMT 24 Feb 92

["Excerpts" of speech by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, RCC, and the Council of Ministers, at the opening of the Transitional National Assembly, TNA, in Omdurman on 24 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our Lord, we praise you for the teachings of guidance that you have given us. We pray for and salute your final prophet, the imam of the clear sunnah, and his family and companions, the guided leaders and all those who follow them until the last day.

Brother speaker of the TNA, brother and sister members of the Assembly: I salute you all. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all. In the name of God and with His blessings we witness with you the start of the TNA's proceedings, happy with God's bounty by means of which good works are achieved. Our joy is made greater by the fact that attending this great occasion are brothers who are dear and noble from friendly countries, from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and from the state of Palestine. I salute brother President [as heard] Yasir 'Arafat, who was prevented by weather conditions from landing at Khartoum airport; he is now at Port Sudan. The Republic of Iraq, the Republic of Yemen, the Republic of Turkey, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Ethiopia, fraternal Eritrea, the Libyan Jamahiriyah, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the UK [United Kingdom], the large regional press contingent, the FRG, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, I welcome them all very warmly from the bottom of my heart. I thank them very much for responding to our invitations and honoring us with their presence. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, political crises have been inseparable from the history of our country since independence. The changing political systems with their various parties and military and transitional forms grew worse. These crises made the people's choice the only choice after failures and corruption struck at the roots of politics, society, and the economy. General living conditions deteriorated, while the homeland slid backward and its international reputation suffered. [passage omitted]

The institutions of the legislative and executive authorities established by the Constitution had become empty premises because the officials were often absent. They became meaningless because they were emasculated, and particular departments took away their initiative.

As to lassitude in the general national effort, it can be attributed to the absence of a target, a weakness of faith, a lack of responsibility, poor efforts, and frustration. All this was manifested in the increasing contradictions in our energies and the continuing decrease in our revenues until the political situation became characterized by laxity in commitment and withdrawal in every field.

Defense and national security are the first duty of every government, yet our national defense began to shrink due to the shrinkage of our political changes [as heard] until a grave situation was reached in the recent era. Security was disrupted in the whole national arena. The war in the South grew beyond all its former lines to such an extent that the threat to national security developed into a threat to national existence in its entirety. Fear for [words indistinct] tranquillity of society and the stability of the government developed into panic over the fragmentation of Sudan's national integrity.

Despite all this, the (?politicians), in the face of that national threat, agreed to submit weakly or to employ themselves in political intrigues and rivalries. They went ahead and bargained over everything for party gains. They conceded that which they did not own of the values of this nation to the broken remnants of the rebellion. They did not care about selling the Islamic character and the patriotism [of Sudan] to gain the favor of a rebellion which had come to strike against Islam and patriotism.

Some betrayed their religion and patriotism yesterday, and today they are betraying the same things by [word indistinct] alliances and lowly scheming with every kind of lurking enemy.

It became imperative for the revolution to introduce earnestness in work, to defend national unity, and to fend off threats against its security by a balanced political tolerance and defensive strength. With its tolerance, the revolution succeeded in silencing the tongues of the rebellion and its propaganda. With its strength it had the power to cut the rebellion's external lines of supply, so much so that it became divided against itself and split apart.

Brothers and sisters, I wish to assure you that the efforts to secure the territory of the homeland will continue to proceed, God willing. The peace efforts will continue

today and tomorrow, God willing. By these efforts peace will be restored to all parts of our dear homeland. [passage omitted]

There were some who attacked us from far and near. They wanted to boycott us and force us to become political and economic subordinates of others. But we endured patiently and relied on ourselves. We dispensed with humiliating relief supplies because we wanted to rise above being obligated to others and subject to their annoyance. [applause] Some sympathizers feared for us, but the masses understood, endured, worked, and they are now about to see the fruits of prosperity coming near. There is an increase in food, energy, and ample good things, God willing. [passage omitted]

The revolution has turned its attention to social institutions, revived religious marriages, and promoted [words indistinct] and morality. It has rehabilitated societies by forming organizations. All this is to educate, mobilize, and reform society. The revolution is persevering with its social programs. The revolution was an inevitable salvation. It restored health to Sudan, the despised sick man of Africa. It strengthened Sudan's foreign relations in a manner which expressed its people's affiliations and interests.

Our independent efforts were a source of fear to some people judging by the reaction of such quarters, because they wanted Sudan to remain humble and subordinate to others, to lack any identity of its own. The fact that these reactions emerged, however, indicated that Sudan, God be praised, was great to the extent of the greatness of the pain of others. They have to adjust to the realities.

Sudan's steadfast stand has won it brothers and friends. We have gained more friends and brothers among our neighbors and in other parts of Asia and Africa. Doubts about the strength of the revolution and its survival have begun to vanish. The false estimation of its internal policies has been shown to be false. Propaganda and evil allegations against Sudan have rebounded against the perpetrators. Moreover, Sudan enjoys in its official friendships the most extensive popularity enjoyed by any of the despised peoples. This age is the age of the people. Tomorrow belongs to them.

If there are people in this world wishing us harm, we are under the protection of God. We shall be victorious with the people's confidence and strength and with Sudan's growing weight, which will impose awe and respect. We have not caused anyone harm and we shall not do so. We have not lent a hand to terrorism or aggression against anyone and we shall not do so. However, we shall not ever bargain over our identity or interests. [passage omitted]

Sudan, as you know, is a country of diversity. However, the bond which links its people is religion, which unites affiliations, culture, and conduct. Arabic is the predominant language of conversation. Then there is the social intermixing, contacts, and mutual support for one another and the (?national) structure for Sudanese unity. As Islam is predominant, tolerance will also be predominant, and the other religions will maintain their positions and respect. As Arabic spread, the older Sudanese vernacular languages were preserved and their [word indistinct] spread—Arabism mixed with Africanism and the tribes, groups, and cultures became elements of enrichment and links for awareness of one another. Tolerance, rivalries in piety, and all-embracing faiths exist under the banner of monotheism and within the framework of Sudanese unity.

It is on the basis of the aforementioned things that we permit ourselves to talk about a Sudanese nation linked to a greater nation in Africa and the Islamic-Arab world. We may also emphasize a political theory derived from religious principles and human experience but formulated in such a way as to fit a particular country. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, the TNA, which should be understood within a framework of developments arising from the experience of consultations and conferences since the beginning of the revolution, should also be understood within its original political context. We should not treat it as a model, for otherwise it will lapse into what was practiced in the past. We must all be aware that we are embarking on an unfamiliar transformation. This is unprecedented because the Sudanese people for the first time have gathered in conferences for extensive consultations to ponder their political experiences and to evaluate these for purposes of comparison in light of the experiences of others. [passage omitted] We should avoid imported systems from the West such as liberal capitalism with its classes and conflicting parties, or from the dreary East and the universal one-party or military coercion. [applause]

We turn to an original system chosen by [the Sudanese] themselves to fit their circumstances and society.

We must remember when returning to parliamentary forms that we are entering a system that we ourselves have chosen consciously, freely, and independently. We have not inherited it from colonialism or imported it from others. It is a system enhanced by all of our experiences, which will keep the good things and discard the bad ones. It is a system based on the creed of a believing people opposed to conspiracies and bargains cooked up by a group of military, sectarian, or party leaders. Our entry into this political system is the result of reliance on believing, free, and wise people. [passage omitted]

As a country in which a majority of the population are Muslims, Sudan has chosen Islam as a source of its political system and a guide for its public life. The TNA is founded on this basis. However, we do not take Islam as a sham emblem to misguide the ordinary people. There will be no sectarianism to tear apart the people's ranks, and there will be no bigotry to cause strife between Muslims and followers of other religions. Freedom of belief is not only guaranteed according to the laws and norms of the country but is also in accordance with the higher values of man's freedom as enshrined in Islamic law.

There is no coercion in religion; guidance has been differentiated from misguidance, and that is not all. Citizenship must be kept in mind. Positive cooperation must be maintained, and the need for overall justice for all citizens no matter what their religion must be observed. [passage omitted.]

The political system is based on the consultation embodied in this Transitional National Assembly because the revolutionary system is a popular system, and consultation is with the people. Consultation comes from the spirit of the people in particular, and it is one of the Islamic principles and a distinctive mark of the society of believers. [passage omitted]

This council shall be distinguished by its extensive duties. These duties include what is already familiar, such as approving of federal bills and temporary orders with a freedom of expression that was not available hitherto in previous parliaments. It will approve the draft general budget with the right to amend it in a manner never before enjoyed by a legislative assembly in Sudan.

The TNA will also have the power to approve draft laws ratifying international treaties and to provide advice and consultation to the RCC or the head of state. It will also have the power to monitor the performance of the federal executive and to assist the minister [words indistinct].

The duties of the Assembly go beyond this, however, because it will also have the duty of approving national plans and programs and holding consultations on any matters of public interest. It will have the power to make any political decision or issue guidance on matters of public interest. It will participate in the general mobilization of government and popular work to achieve the moral and practical objectives of the revolution. This assembly will be distinguished by greater seriousness in its work so that laxity, absenteeism, bigotry, or ill-prepared debates do not recur. There will be a need for drawing up agendas and preparing initiatives and positions ahead of time.

You will find in the TNA all that is needed for a free and independent assembly: openness in its work and debates. Meetings will also be public. What it does will be published under the freedom of speech. The members will express themselves freely and responsibly. No member can be taken to court and no legal proceedings can be brought against him because of the ideas or opinions he has expressed. Members will also enjoy the scheduled privileges and immunities.

However, you will find this assembly distinguished by its members' commitment to the oaths that they took of being free of any partisan leanings or bigotry, by virtue of the original organization of the leadership of debates—that is if we overlook polarization between government and opposition and between leader and head. [sentence as heard]

There will be three leaders of the debates. Studies will have to be prepared for them and opportunities provided for them to enrich the debates with freedom and flexibility with due regard for diversity in the field of options and opinions.

The Assembly, in the spirit of debate, however, will avoid the phenomenon of polarization between the majority and minority and should seek a consensus that will unify the decision of the nation however split opinions have been during the debates.

This is a course started by the revolution based on the traditions of its popular conferences, which were open for every view and opinion from every direction but which finally reached a consensus acceptable to everybody. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, perhaps the skeptics might criticize this assembly as being an appointed and not an elected assembly. By this they mean to try to discredit its legitimacy, capability, and freedom. As for legitimacy, just look at the members' backgrounds, and note their evaluations. They are all citizens who have been subject to all forms of academic, professional, social, and political elections. [passage omitted]

Some of you are here because you have reached the highest levels in your fields. Some of you are representatives of popular sectors and organizations and have been leaders at the helm by virtue of being elected. Some have been symbols in their own groups and organizations for a long time. Some of you are leaders in religion and science, having high status among the public and having attained a leadership position. Some of you are representing your geographical regions through traditional and popular selection known to all. Some of you have confirmed your preeminence by natural selection through experience and politics. Indeed, very many of you have been deputies in actual legal elections in the past. As to capability, we leave that to God.

However, we do not believe that there has ever been a legislative assembly in the history of Sudan which has included a group like this blessed gathering in which so many experts have been mobilized.

Some of you have been formed by the experiences of politics and age. Some of you come from the best levels of society. You represent intellectuals and all sectors of the public. There are people here from all professions working to build Sudan with expertise and wisdom. The politician, the administrator, both local and national, are here. The economist, the agriculturist, the engineer, the

doctor, the veterinarian, the teacher, the academician, the journalist, the diplomat, the lawyer, the merchant, the farmer, the industrialist, the worker, the employee, the artist, the sportsman, and the man of letters are here. There is the military sector and the policeman and theexecutive arm of the federal government, as well as that of the states. There is also the Sudanese political sector. There is also a large group of women representing half of society which used to be neglected before the revolution.

As to freedom, brothers and sisters, you have been appointed voluntarily after extensive consultations in which many people of different opinions took part; these people are also unbiased and know their people very well in the capital and the states. Now that you have been appointed, however, we leave you to your free and sincere consciences. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Polisario: France Should Force Moroccan Cooperation

LD2602175292 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Western Sahara/Paris, 26 Feb (APS)—The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro] representatives in France have issued a statement in which they expressed their hope that "France will make Morocco show the necessary cooperation with the United Nations in order to resume the peace process in the Western Sahara, which would enable the Saharan people to enjoy their self-determination."

This came on the eve of the visit to Morocco by Roland Dumas, French minister of state for foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Diplomatic Ties Established With Turkmenia

JN2602143292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Feb (WAKH)—Due to their desire to strengthen the ties of friendship and to improve bilateral cooperation in all fields, the Governments of the State of Bahrain and the Republic of Turkmenia have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Minister Denies Electronic Border Fence Planned

LD2602142192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1320 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Feb (KUNA)—In a press interview published here today Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim said that the security of the Gulf is built on the pillars of the peninsula shield [Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC, forces], the Damascus Declaration, and bilateral agreements. He emphasized that a danger from the Iraqi regime will exist as long as Saddam Husayn and his regime remain in power.

In an interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT he said that Kuwait has not yet been completely liberated. Liberation will be complete when the last Kuwaiti prisoner of war returns.

Referring to the project of the Omani ruler to form a united army, he said: It is a project to which we all aspire, but we have to understand that it cannot be achieved in one, two, or 10 years.

He added that Kuwait has told the GCC member states that it cannot participate in such a project today because this requires human resources. We currently have a shortage of those. He pointed out that Kuwait currently needs the efforts of everyone in it to rebuild its armed forces and to reequip its infrastructure.

He said that any adventure like Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait would be costly for any country which might think of committing such an act of aggression against another country, not only against Kuwait.

He added that the danger of the Iraqi regime still exists. If Saddam as a person is removed, danger from his regime will remain. He pointed out that the way to remove the danger is to remove the Iraqi regime.

As for rumors of Kuwait's intentions to build an electronic fence along its borders with Iraq, the Kuwaiti minister said that talk about that project is incorrect. Up to today Kuwait has not made any final decision about protecting its borders because the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders has not yet been finalized.

Interior Minister: Iraqi Border Talks Continue

PM2602124292 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 20 Feb 92 pp 1, 6

[Anwar al-Yasin report: "Interior Minister Says: We Want To Demarcate Borders as Soon as Possible"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah has denied press reports that the committee for demarcating borders with Iraq has ended its meetings. In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT he said that the committee will hold its fifth meeting in Auckland, New Zealand in April.

The interior minister said that the issue of demarcating the borders with Iraq is not concluded and is still under discussion in the international committee formed under a resolution adopted by the UN Security Council.

He added that Kuwait's position is to complete the demarcation as soon as possible so as to safeguard Kuwait's right to all of its territory and recognized borders in accordance with international stipulations. [passage omitted]

General Comments on Possible Unified Gulf Army

LD2602125792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Khalid Kuwait [place-name as received], 26 Feb (KUNA)—Staff General Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan 'Abd-al-Aziz, commander of the joint forces and theater of operation in Operation Desert Storm, which liberated Kuwait from Iraq's occupation, emphasized in a press interview published here today that power is not measured merely by the accumulation of weapons. The ability of the individual to use these weapons is the real measure of these resources.

Prince Khalid, in an interview published today in the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, said that "we must not forget that wealth must be protected by power. Power is not the accumulation of weapons. It is measured by the capabilities of the individual who uses them." [passage omitted]

Staff Gen. Prince Khalid expressed his opinion that establishing a unified Gulf army at the present time might face a number of obstacles and that hastiness in this matter might "lead to adverse results". He said that the start must come in building the individual capability of each GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member state in line with its circumstances and its human and economic capabilities, to be followed by coordination, mutual cooperation and training, joint practical plans, and the standardization of military doctrines. "This would be the natural and sound approach to creating a unified Gulf army in the future." He expressed his hope that this would be the sound beginning of a unified Arab army.

Prince Khalid pointed out in his interview that bringing down the Iraqi regime was not among the objectives of the coalition forces. He stated that the mandate of UN Security Council Resolution 678 permitted the use of force to liberate Kuwait, not to bring down the Iraqi regime. It was wise to stop at that point because changing ruling regimes is the responsibility of the peoples and not the responsibility of foreign powers. [passage omitted]

Heir Apparent Addresses POW Ceremony

NC2502153892 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 0728 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Speech by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, to the "procession of gratitude and hope organized by the Martyrs Bureau of the Amiri Court in cooperation with the National Committee for Prisoners of War and Affairs of the Missing," at al-'Alam Square in Kuwait—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God. Prayers and peace be on Prophet Muhammad, the last of the prophets and most honorable of messengers.

Brothers, sisters, it pleases me on this gracious occasion to address to you a greeting of love, brotherhood, gratitude, and appreciation. [applause] [passage omitted]

This is a procession of hope and supplication to God, may He be praised and exalted, to release the bonds shackling our sons who are still held as prisoners of war and detainees in the Baghdad tyrant's prisons and detention centers. I assure you, brothers and sisters, that our efforts, contacts, and (?appeals) continue to be made to all officials in fraternal and friendly countries and regional and international organizations. We will not rest until all of our sons return to their homeland, kinfolk, and families, God willing. In our meeting this morning we recall with all appreciation, pride, and reverence our heroic martyrs and prisoners of war. At this moment, on this occasion, we must also remember the past, the morning of Thursday, 2 August, when we were surprised by the treacherous Iraqi aggression against my country and peaceable brothers when the Baghdad tyrant, the enemy of humanity, came flaunting his armed forces, planes, tanks, and missiles. [passage omitted]

Saddam (?thought) that he could attain his expansionist ambitions. He forgot, or pretended to, that the Kuwaiti people refused in the past, refuse now, and will always refuse aggression and that they do not surrender to tyrants because we believe in God. The Kuwaiti people have preserved their existence and territory in the past. Though few, these people raised their voices to the whole world, denounced aggression, proclaimed their allegiance to their legitimate leaders, rejected occupation, and demanded a withdrawal of the invading forces from all Kuwaiti territory.

Brothers, sisters, the Kuwaiti people adopted a united stand [words indistinct] their country, their existence, and their independence. This courageous stand manifested itself in the formation of resistance groups despite the presence of the invading Iraqi forces in my country. These forces came here to torture, tyrannize, destroy, kill, and burn. This courageous nation, however, did not surrender despite the Iraqi forces' tyranny and torture. [passage omitted]

Brothers, sisters, in our familial meeting today I see images of love, brotherhood, and determination to serve our homeland everywhere and in everything. I tell you that the government in the past few months has made great achievements in the field of reconstruction. Nevertheless, from my position of responsibility I tell you all that we still have much to do. Numerous large tasks and burdens remain for us to rebuild our beloved country. They require further patience from us, further unity, cooperation, and solidarity for the good of the homeland and citizens. Serving the homeland and citizens is a trust which we must fulfill and which we cannot, in any circumstances, abandon. [passage omitted]

Brothers, sisters, I believe it is my duty at this large assembly to address everyone present here and everywhere, in every house and every street in Kuwait. I tell you all [words indistinct] that we believe in democracy—a democracy that builds rather than destroys. [applause] We believe in a democracy that unites hearts before it unites ranks, one that unites the Kuwaiti people. [passage indistinct]

Brothers, sisters, I have said before, I am saying now, and I will say in the future, on every occasion in every place, that the strength of Kuwaitis lies in their unity of opinion, ranks [words indistinct].

I also loudly declare that we reject imported views and ideas. [applause] We have rejected, we reject, and we will reject the import of creeds and ideologies that contradict our tolerant sharia [applause] our principles, customs, and traditions. We believe that our causes will always be resolved by amicable and fraternal (?dialogue and understanding) and by meetings that are always characterized by amity, mutual understanding, and dialogue.

Brothers, sisters, all of us, the sons of this one homeland, regardless of our respective positions, are in one ship sailing in a sea full of rocks, high waves, and storms with clouds gathering overhead. Nevertheless, praise be to God, a competent skipper at the helm [applause] [words indistinct] who succeeded in guiding the ship. We the ship's crew are constantly guided and enlightened by His instructions and advice. [passage indistinct]

Brothers, it pleases me to seize this opportunity to address, on behalf of all of you, the leaders and peoples of the fraternal and friendly countries who supported us during our ordeal and difficult days. They crowned their supportive stand with military action that expelled the Iraqi forces from all Kuwaiti territory. My brothers and sisters, the children of my beloved homeland, express

their appreciation to these leaders. [applause] [Words indistinct] and those who backed the Baghdad tyrant politically and in the media. Additionally, they sent military equipment and ammunition. We tell these people that the Kuwaiti people cannot, under any circumstances, forget these stands, which the people denounced. [Words indistinct] [applause]

It is not possible, no, dear brothers and sons of my homeland, it is not possible to forget these weak stands. Did they forget what Kuwait gave them in past years? Did they forget the Kuwaiti people's stands toward them when they experienced ordeals and crises? We will not be lenient with these people until they return to the correct path, condemn the Iraqi aggression, show respect for the Kuwaiti people, declare their opinion publicly and frankly, and declare their recognition of the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait. [passage indistinct] We strived, struggled, and lost martyrs, and some of our youth were detained and are still held in the Baghdad tyrant's prisons. Despite all this, our struggle and efforts for our existence and independence will continue whatever sacrifices are necessary. This is our destiny. As I told you before, we will die so that Kuwait may live. We will die so that Kuwait may live. We will die so that Kuwait may live. [applause] God is great, God is greater than the sinful aggressors. God is great, God is great, God is greater than the haters. God is great, God is great, God is greater than the unjust.

My last word to you is: And hold fast, all together, to the rope that God stretches out for you and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verse]

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Oman

Minister Views Peace Talks, Regional Cooperation

JN2402113192 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0921 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Muscat, 24 Feb (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, said he hopes that the current Middle East peace negotiations will lead to resolving the Palestine question by 1993 at the latest.

In an interview published in the Omani newspaper 'UMAN today, he called for devoting the rest of this century to removing all seeds of doubt and utilizing the coming years to build confidence among the peoples of the Middle East.

The minister said he believes that Europe is willing to provide material, technological, and technical support to all the peoples of the region to create a new way of life.

Asked about the proposal to form a common market comprising Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinians, the Omani minister said that the establishment of a common market consisting of Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians is a sine qua non in the future. However, he added, this issue is premature and the current negotiations should be given a chance.

In the interview, which was carried by the OMANI NEWS AGENCY today, he said: If the Jews want to enjoy stability, they must be linked to the Middle East countries.

On the situation in Algeria, he said that the Algerian Government is wisely handling the various issues, and he stated that Algeria has acted as a positive element in all Middle East problems in past years.

The Omani minister also said that the Sultanate of Oman supports Algeria's policy, adding that he hopes the Algerian state and people will succeed in their current efforts to avert many problems facing their country and those who love Algeria.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Receives Iraqi Opposition Delegation

NC2602171492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Report from unidentified Voice of the Iraqi People correspondent in Riyadh on 25 February]

[Text] Greetings from the Riyadh Palace of Conferences in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and defense minister, received an Iraqi opposition delegation at the Defense Ministry at noon today. His Highness Prince Turki Bin-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz attended the meeting.

The Iraqi opposition delegation included His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim; Air Force Lieutenant General 'Arif 'Abd-al-Razzaq, former vice president, prime minister, and defense minister; Staff Lt. Gen. Ibrahim al- Dawud, former defense minister, and representatives from various opposition groups.

At the outset of the meeting Prince Sultan spoke about the solid ties linking the Iraqi and Saudi peoples. His highness said that these relations are based on religion, pan-Arabism, and neighborliness.

Prince Sultan reviewed events preceding the Iraq-Iran war and referred to the Kingdom's efforts to prevent the outbreak of this war and to stem the bloodshed of the two Muslim peoples. His highness said that the Kingdom acted on the principle that it would not condone the occupation of a single inch of Iraq. This principle prompted the Kingdom to contribute to the defense of Iraq's borders while continuing its mediation with Iran to stop the war and end the bloodshed. His highness added that the Kingdom repeatedly advised Saddam Husayn against the war before it started.

Prince Sultan then reviewed events preceding Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, which led to the Gulf war. His highness said that the Kingdom, which stood by Iraq in its war against Iran, was looking forward to assisting Iraq in postwar reconstruction, but Saddam, acting against all norms of religion, pan-Arabism, and neighborliness, deceived everyone, occupied an Arab country which is a member of the Arab League and the United Nations, and threatened the Kingdom's security. The custodian of the two holy mosques had to do what was necessary to deflect the threat and defend the Kingdom's land, people, and sacred sites.

The Saudi defense minister added that the Kingdom distinguishes between Saddam's regime and the friendly and honorable Iraqi people. Prince Sultan said that the Iraqi Army is not Saddam's own for it belongs to Iraq and all Arabs. Iraqi officers and soldiers are obeying orders against their will because they fear for their families' safety.

Prince Sultan concluded his remarks by expressing the hope that peace will return to Iraq under a just regime that follows the teachings of the Koran and the Prophet Muhammad. He added that the Kingdom will not hold back on any assistance needed by the Iraqi people and their national opposition forces to bring down the unjust and repressive regime and to return Iraq to its people and its former peace and prosperity. His highness called on the Iraqi opposition to maintain unity, live up to their responsibilities at this crucial stage, reject sectarian differences, and place Iraq's interests above their agendas.

For his part, His Eminence Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim said that the Iraqi people applaud the Kingdom's stands and appreciate its help to the Iraqis. Sayyid al-Hakim prayed to God Almighty to allow the Iraqis to live once again in freedom, dignity, and pride.

At 2000 on 25 February the Iraqi opposition will hold an important meeting to discuss the proposals submitted by various opposition groups. Among these is a proposal by the director of the Voice of the Iraqi People calling for the current meeting to be expanded to include other Iraqi opposition groups abroad. According to this proposal a national council [majlis watani] comprising all those attending the meeting would then be formed. The national council is to spawn a command council [hay'at qiyadah] comprising civilian and military officials to represent and lead the Iraqi opposition until the tyrant's regime is overthrown. The command council would then be dissolved and be replaced by a transitional government comprising nonpolitical figures ['anasir ghayr siyasiyah]. The transitional government would then hold fair elections to allow the Iraqi people to select their future government freely.

Reportage on Joint FRG Economic Commission

King Fahd Receives German Minister

LD2602183692 Hamburg DPA in German 1749 GMTR 25 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, (DPA)—In the view of FRG Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann, Saudi Arabia has no reservations about Germany on account of its policy during the Gulf war. After a two and one-half hour talk with King Fahd and talks with other Saudi ministers, Moellemann said on Tuesday evening in Riyadh that the Kingdom desires the broadest possible economic and also political cooperation with united Germany. This was also strongly confirmed by King Fahd himself. In taking this view, Moellemann differs from other observers.

Moellemann, who has been in Saudi Arabia since Monday evening on the first official visit by a German minister since the Gulf war, went on to say that the Saudi leadership expects that with its increase in power, Germany will exert greater political influence on international political developments. This applies both to the Middle East peace talks—where Bonn should encourage Israel to be more moderate—and also to the free trade negotiations between the EC and the six Arab Gulf countries [Gulf Cooperation Council].

According to Moellemann unmistakable concern exists in Riyadh over economic developments in some Western countries. The recession in the United States and stagnation in Great Britain, Saudi Arabia's two most important allies, are giving rise to Saudi concern that Arab oil state could also be affected in the long term, he said. Moellemann responded in the negative when asked whether the Kingdom is perhaps seeking closer cooperation with Germany for this reason.

"I have the impression that traditional sentiments and deeply entrenched sympathies for Germany exist here," he declared. "There is a considerable degree of confidence in the fact that Germany will also cope with its more difficult tasks such as the completion of unity." Criticism of the price-performance ratio of the German economy was expressed, however, he said. The Germans are perceived as being too expensive, he added. Moellemann reported that aside from the Gulf war no other military topics were touched upon in his discussions. German export restrictions in this area were not of any interest at all, he said.

Riyadh Urges FRG Role in Peace Talks

LD2602192192 Hamburg DPA in German 1504 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh (DPA)—Saudi Arabia is hoping for initiatives from the Federal Government to stabilize the Middle East peace negotiations, which are now at a delicate stage. Federal Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann was speaking to journalists today during his

official visit to Riyadh following a series of talks with members of the government and the royal family.

"We have been asked to help in the current stage to prevent the negotiations from failing," Moellemann said. In the Saudi view, one of things that Bonn can do is to use its relations with Israel. Moellemann stated that the EC foreign ministers can possibly tackle this issue at their upcoming meeting on Monday.

According to Moellemann his talks with Saudi leaders clearly confirmed that united Germany's increased importance is recognized and that, in general, more activity in international politics is expected. In his opinion, it is against this background that Saudi Arabia is looking for a tangible strengthening of political and economic cooperation with the Federal Republic.

Moelleman was cautious but basically satisfied with his first contacts with Saudi businessmen at a joint investment seminar at which he sought to attract investment to eastern Germany. "There was a strong Saudi presence and lively interest," he said.

Economic Talks Begin

LD2602185892 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 25 Feb (SPA)—The 10th session of the Saudi-German Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation began in Riyadh today. The Saudi side is headed by His Excellency Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, and the German side is headed by Juergen Moellemann, German economics minister. [passage omitted]

At the start of the session His Excellency Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl delivered a speech in which he welcomed the German delegation on behalf of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques. He said that the success achieved by the Saudi-German committee demonstrates the commitment of our two countries to the objectives announced when the committee was set up in 1974. He added: We are convinced that during these meetings we will continue the task of expanding the scope and reinforcing the strength of our mutual economic relations.

His excellency also reviewed economic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Germany and said: Relations now encompass all economic sectors, and trade is probably the most prominent aspect of our mutual relations.

His excellency added that trade between the two countries expanded and increased in the past decade, noting that the EC is one of the Kingdom's main trading partners. He also pointed out that relations between agencies and public and private enterprises in the two countries have been firmly established.

His Excellency Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl also discussed the Saudi economy and said: The Saudi economy has seen rapid growth, and the forecasts are brilliant. He added: The gross domestic product, not including oil, which is an accurate measure of the public and private sectors, grew in real terms by an average of 3.8 percent in 1990, compared to 1.8 percent in 1989. Growth reached 9 percent in the industrial sector and 7 percent in the agricultural sector in 1990.

His excellency pointed out that the past year witnessed an increase in consumer spending and in the formation of private capital, and that there now exists an important expansion in state and private institutions.

He said: "During the past two years more than 175 new factories have been built with a total capitalization of more than 8 billion Saudi riyals. These factories have provided approximately 11,000 new jobs.

"In addition, 430 licenses were issued for factories which will be established with a total capitalization of approximately 15 billion riyals. They include factories for chemical products, plastics, metal products, building materials, and foodstuffs.

"Other new licenses have been issued to build factories for ordinary metals, textiles, and finished clothing, and many companies are now preparing to export their products."

His excellency pointed out that the number of private sector factories able to export their own products jumped from 93 in 1984 to 425 in 1989. Therefore, the value of nonoil exports increased 10-fold during the period from 1984 to 1990. [passage omitted]

The Minister of finance and national economy said that in its last budget the Saudi Government maintained its emphasis on and interest in economic development. That is why government spending was set to increase by 27 percent compared to the previous budget. [passage omitted]

During the current five-year plan, which covers 1990 to 1995, the private sector will be responsible for approximately 52 percent of all nonoil investments.

His excellency pointed out that the good and fruitful environment which Saudi Arabia has always provided is not restricted to local private investors but also includes foreign investors.

He said: "When we invite the businessmen of friendly countries to participate as investors in the Saudi economy, we do this as a country with a deeply rooted belief in free-market economics." [passage omitted]

FRG's Moellemann on Trade Ties

LD2602144892 Riyadh SPA in English 1233 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 6, SPA—The tenth session of the German-Saudi Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation, the investment seminar and the political talks with the Saudi Government will help intensify economic relations between Saudi Arabia and Germany, according to Juergen W. Moellemann, the Federal minister of economics.

A statement issued by the German Embassy last night, quoted Moellemann at the opening of the session as saying that since the commission's last meeting in Bonn in January 1990, developments of a historical dimension have created new framework conditions in the social, political and economic fields.

He said the investment seminar, on fringes of the commission's work, will offer German and Saudi companies excellent opportunities of making contact for the purpose of industrial cooperation projects.

Moellemann commended keen interest of the Saudi Government to intensify industrial cooperation. "In the spirit of an open world economy, I welcome this attitude and will continue my efforts toward more cooperation between Germany and Saudi Arabia.

"Moreover, the investment seminar also offers the opportunity of familiarising Saudi companies with the eastern part of Germany as a new location for marketing and production and of highlighting the enormous opportunities for commercial involvement there," Moellemann said.

"I therefore expect that, over the long term, Germany's eastern part will develop into one of the most attractive locations for investment in Europe, offering a brand new infrastructure, rapidly growing demand and trade ties with Eastern Europe that have already begun to expand again," he added.

He welcomed Saudi start-ups and corporate participations in Germany.

Since the last session of the German-Saudi Joint Commission two years ago, he said bilateral cooperation between our countries has been given further economic impulses.

Saudi Arabia has reached the number five position on the list of Germany's crude oil suppliers, behind the Commonwealth of Independent States, the United Kingdom, Libya and Norway, he added.

Saudi Arabia continues to be the Federal Government's most important trading partner among the Arab countries, Moellemann said.

"We must join hands to build the foundation for the further development of our trade relations.

In this connection, I was pleased to see that a new round of negotiations on a free trade agreement between the EC and the Gulf Cooperation Council has begun.

Intensification of German-Saudi trade simultaneously creates favourable conditions for strengthening industrial cooperation.

The Saudi-German Development and Investment Company [Sageco] has proved to be an excellent institution for this purpose.

Technology transfer, know-how, management experience, and training are the necessary elements of cooperation designed to last," he said.

He said the private sector in Saudi Arabia is growing at a significant pace. This is an area in which the businessmen's dialogue will well serve as a forum for expanding contacts between the businessmen of our two countries.

"I propose that the next meeting of the businessmen's dialogue take place in the new states of the Federal Republic.

The Saudi-German liaison office in Riyadh is an important point of contact for bilateral economic relations.

This is shown by the eve. growing numbers of Saudi and German business partners who make use of the experience and service offered by the office.

I would also be very pleased if the current talks on an investment protection agreement resulted in the conclusion of a treaty in the foreseeable future,' he said.

He called for intensification and expansion of German-Saudi cooperation in the field of technology, training and consultative services.

'In the field of cooperation on research and technology, the development of the hysolar [as received] project for the production of hydrogen with the aid of solar energy has made progress signalized by the conclusion of project phase one.

The testing of the system is going to be continued in a second project phase, and will hopefully be successful,' he said.

Moellemann also explored good prospects of cooperation in environmental research, farming and food industries.

Meanwhile, Achim Holzenberger, second secretary for political affairs and press officer at Germany Embassy in Riyadh today told SPA's English news service that a new treaty in the field of technical cooperation, is hopefully going to be signed at the end of the commission's deliberations in Riyadh.

He underlined the importance of two seminars, which would deal with investments prospects in Saudi Arabia and the new Federal state of Germany, and said they would provide opportunities for beneficial cooperation and investments scope for businessmen of the two countries.

The commission's work provides major official links between Saudi Arabia and Germany, he said.

Holzenberger said technical cooperation between the two countries began in 1952 when there were only four German advisors, adding that their number now totals 130, who under the auspices of GTZ [German Organisation for Technical Cooperation] are currently providing vocational training and counselling Saudi Arabian institutions.

Similarly close cooperation (between German experts and the Saudi Arabian standardization) takes place in the field of standardization and control of standards.

Intensive ties between Germany and Saudi Arabia exist also in the field of telecommunication and related works, where German detecon [as received] participates in numerous projects of postal and communication consultancy.

Scientific and technological cooperation concentrates on the use of solar energy, underwater research and information technology. In a related development, a press release of the German Embassy today described relations between Saudi Arabia and the Federal Republic of Germany as 'noteworthy' not only in political but also in the economic and commercial field.

"Saudi Arabia has been for Germany a very reliable partner and a pillar of trade with the Middle East."

In order to intensify German investments in the Kingdom, the Saudi German Development and Investment Company (Sageco) was founded in 1982.

28 joint ventures exist in the industrial sector whereas the non-industrial sector counts 55 joint ventures.

Two Accords Signed

LD2702100792 Berlin ADN in German 0804 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh (ADN)—Today's signing of a protocol and an agreement on the continuation of technical cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Germany by Muhammad al-'Ali Aba-al-Khayl, Saudi finance and national economy minister, and Juergen Moellemann, Federal economics minister, marked the end of the discussions by the joint economic commission in Riyadh. In Moellemann's assessment the commission is an important instrument in political and economic cooperation. He praised in particular the willingness of the Saudi side to participate in a fund to develop the new laender. The two sides agreed to expand the instruments of German-Saudi cooperation. This includes the so-called businessman dialogue that would next take place in one of the new laender, Moellemann told journalists. An agreement was also reached to finalize negotiations on an investment protection agreement as soon as possible. The German side emphasized the need to improve legal and administrative framework conditions. It was agreed to intensify contacts at the ministerial level between the commission meetings, which take place every two years. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Notes Defense, Economic Issues

LD2602093992 Riyadh SPA in English 1918 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 25, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud has commended the unique and wise manner by which late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the founder of the Kingdom, dealt with the difficult situations and challenges that faced him while grouping together this great and beloved entity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He said the late king had managed to deal successfully with economic and security problems that faced him thanks to the blessings of the Almighty God and then to the courage and wisdom characterized late King 'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud.

King Fahd made the remarks in an interview to be published on Wednesday by the Riyadh based weekly news magazine, AL-YAMAMAH.

"Because the experience of late King 'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud was so valuable and rich, I so it was expedient to benefit from such experience in finalizing infrastructural phases of the Kingdom" the king said.

King Fahd evaluated the national unity achieved by the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud as the most important landmark of the national development march. He also cited with pride the marvelous civilized accomplishments realised through the development plans.

"The people of this country have determinated to exterminate the dangerous enemies of mankind, ignorance, poverty and illness", he said and made clear that what has been achieved does not mark the end of our ambitions, but more and more achievements are still to be realised.

King Fahd expressed optimism when asked whether he believes that hard times in the region are over and said the Muslim was always advised to be optimistic in line with the teachings of the Holy Koran and traditions of the Prophet, peace be upon him.

"As long as the Almighty Allah is on our side, any fears or pessimistic views would be unjustified and unacceptable, so we should fear nothing but God," he said.

King Fahd emphasized the paramount need for security and stability in a world full of contradicting currents and events and said preservation of security and stability is given top priority.

Referring to future plans to reinforce capabilities of the Saudi Armed Forces in view of the lessons gotten from the Iraqi vicious occupation of Kuwait, King Fahd reiterated that fact that Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is developing its military capabilities for peaceful purposes. He stated that the Kingdom would not spare any

effort to provide its armed forces and other military bodies with the most sophisticated weaponry and well-trained and well-equipped personnel.

He highlighted the courage and loyalty shown by the Saudis during the recent crisis of the Arab Gulf region.

Referring to the new Islamic independent republics of the former Soviet Union, King Fahd confirmed that the Kingdom will try to reinforce its relationship with these republics as part of the Kingdom's well-known policy to dedicate the Islamic solidarity without any interference in the domestic affairs of other states.

The Saudi monarch expressed deep satisfaction over the current process of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], grouping the Kingdom, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman. He said the GCC's national [as received] could easily touch the keenness of the GCC leaders to realise all targeted goals of the council.

Referring to the current multilateral talks between the Arabs and the Israelis in Washington, King Fahd expressed confidence that such talks would lead to a positive outcome if the good-will prevails and if the Israelis relinquish their continuous rejection to peace initiatives and stop building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

King Fahd urged the new generation to adhere strictly to the Islamic teachings and devote more effort to serve their nation and people.

Saddam Inspects Construction at Ba'th Headquarters

JN2602200392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1748 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn inspected the construction work currently under way at the headquarters of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National and Regional Commands to repair what was destroyed by the treacherous traitors.

His excellency was received by the laborers, technicians, and engineers—sons of our people who are taking part in the reconstruction campaign. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Reviews UN Envoy's Talks in Baghdad

JN2602212092 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 26, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad reported that Mr Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Committee, during his stay in Baghdad, held three rounds of talks with Iraqi officials [that] lasted for nine hours.

The paper said that the talks touched on Iraq's position toward the Security Council resolutions and the U.S. insistence to employ the economic blockade as a political instrument of pressure and also what has been implemented of the measures forced on Iraq in accordance with Resolution 687. The talks also tackled Iraq's readiness to conduct a scientific and technical dialogue with the Security Council away from the suspicions and allegations propagated by the United States for perpetuating the economic blockade.

Mr Ekeus talks were held with Mr Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier, Mr Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister and Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, state minister for foreign affairs.

Mr Ekeus left Baghdad last Monday and left behind a U.N. delegation comprising 30 international inspectors.

Earlier, Iraq's foreign minister stated that he had informed Mr Ekeus during the talks that Iraq would expound its position vis-a-vis Resolutions No. 707 and 715 during the proposed meeting with the Security Council next March and which would be attended by an Iraqi technical and political delegation.

Industry Minister Discusses Effects of Embargo

JN2302131092 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Feb 92 p 2

[By Iyad al-Waqfi]

[Text] Baghdad—Dr. 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, Iraqi minister of industry and minerals [title as published], has stressed that the continuation of the embargo imposed on Iraq promotes individual creativity, and initiatives to utilize what is available. He explained that the attack on Iraq did not achieve its objective, and that the United States was unable to face Iraqi steadfastness.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, the minister added that Iraq will remain a sharp sword in the face of its enemies, who have never stopped concocting conspiracies against Iraq. He noted that Iraq has already completed building and reconstructing its industrial installations, and that some installations are still not operating due to the embargo on Iraq and the inability to import raw materials. This has decreased the production of some factories. Production in pharmaceutical factories has decreased by 30 percent, he said.

Replying to a question on Iraq's reliance on foreign labor, he asserted that during the Iraq-Iran war, Iraq relied to a great extent on foreign labor. The number of foreign employees in this ministry amounted to about 36,000 out of 100,000 employees. He noted that after the war, foreign labor gradually decreased until the unjust embargo was imposed on Iraq. Then, foreign labor greatly decreased. He explained that Iraq had succeeded in replacing foreign labor with Iraqi labor, which efficiently and capably met the shortage.

Dr. al-Sa'di called for initiative, creativity, and invention to find alternatives to the imported raw materials used in manufacturing, in order to produce high quality Iraqi-made products.

Dr. al-Sa'di also said that the U.S.-led 30-state aggression clearly targeted the industrial sector from the first day of the war. It aimed to create chaos and fragmentation through the bombing of fuel stations and refineries, and the interruption of radio transmissions and work at other installations. He noted that repairing what was destroyed by the war began as soon as the aggression stopped.

He added that the war damage sustained by the Ministry of Industry and Minerals [as published] amounted to about $4 billion. The material losses, however, were not a burden compared to the experience gained by Iraqis in repairing and self-reliance.

The minister noted that the ministry was on its way to implementing a wide development plan. He said there were many projects at different stages of implementation. Work on these projects stopped because the materials needed for them were used in repairing what was destroyed by the war.

Dr. al-Sa'di explained that outside observers who have examined the details of the destruction caused by the war, and seen what has been accomplished this year, consider it a miracle. He said that what has been accomplished exceeded expectations, noting that this stems from the sense of responsibility of those working in the ministry.

Opposition Figures 'Could Face Assassination'

NC1902204492 Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 19 (AFP) - Iraqi opposition figures could face assassination if they continue to work against the government, an adviser to President Saddam Husayn warned Wednesday.

Press adviser 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin was writing in the newspaper BABIL, which is run by the president's oldest son 'Udday.

"Iraq will not hesitate in pardoning those who return on the just path but it will punish those who continue on the road of treason," Muhsin wrote.

"Assassinations will be allowed for those who persist in their extremism."

Muhsin did not say if his views reflected government policy toward opposition groups, which have recently stepped up calls for the overthrow of Husayn. The president's press adviser also slammed countries such as Syria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for either harbouring Iraqi opposition members or providing them with support.

"How can the opposition call for democracy when it is placing itself under the protection of anti-democratic regimes?" he asked.

"Is it logical for anyone to sacrifice himself for the (Saudi ruling family) al-Saud, the al-Sabah (Kuwait's ruling family) or for (Syrian President) Hafiz al-Asad?"

Government Rejects UN Human Rights Report

JN2402151292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1244 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA)—The Foreign Ministry today stressed that Iraq showed full cooperation with the special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission, out of good intentions to establish a framework of genuine, fruitful, and positive cooperation with the United Nations, and out of a belief in the importance of international cooperation in boosting human rights.

In a statement discussing the report presented by the rapporteur, the Foreign Ministry said the course pursued by the rapporteur in his report reveals that his task was removed from the noble human objectives it was supposed to fulfill. The report included a great number of of allegations, slanders, and distorted facts, proving that the rapporteur's mission was part of the political and media campaign against Iraq—the campaign that seeks to achieve what was not achieved in the military aggression and the unjust economic war launched by Washington against the people of Iraq. The following is the text of the statement:

Iraq has taken note of the report of the special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission concerning human rights in Iraq. While Iraq showed full cooperation with the rapporteur to render his mission a success, as an expression of Iraq's good faith within a framework of genuine, fruitful, and positive cooperation with the United Nations, out of a belief in the importance of international cooperation in boosting human rights, the course pursued by the special rapporteur in his report reveals that his mission was removed from the noble human objectives it was supposed to fulfill. The allegations and distorted facts contained in the report prove that his mission was part of the political and media campaign against Iraq; the campaign that seeks to achieve what was not achieved in the military aggression and the unjust economic war. This campaign is led by the United States and its allies with a view toward fabricating additional justifications for the continuation of the criminal economic blockade, which violates the most fundamental human right; namely, man's right to live. The campaign is also meant to affect the Iraqi people's free will to exercise their political options. The dimensions and objectives of this campaign have become well-known to our people and to every living conscience.

Having studied the report, the Foreign Ministry presents its remarks as follows:

1. The special rapporteur has presented information that is either incomplete, distorted, or far removed from the truth, because his only sources were parties known for their positions, affiliations, and allegiance with the states of aggression against Iraq. How could such a report be considered an in-depth study of the human rights situation in Iraq, which the rapporteur was asked to hold pursuant to the decision of the Human Rights Commission?

2. The Foreign Ministry was surprised to find that the rapporteur did not bother to inform the concerned Iraqi authorities of a number of allegations contained in the report, although Iraq gave him a chance, through his visit, to see the facts as they stand. What is surprising, however, is that the rapporteur considered the information he received to be conclusive and established facts—something that contradicts the objectivity and detachment that must characterize any person tasked with such a noble mission.

3. The special rapporteur met with the deputy prime minister, the foreign minister, and a number of competent officials. He mentioned nothing, however, about the details of these meetings or about the officials' explanations and answers. Instead, he only mentioned some parts of these meetings and distorted some of what the deputy prime minister said. This proves that he lacks credibility in reviewing facts.

4. The report shows a lack of seriousness in examining the information he received. It also shows that he is ignorant of Iraq's demographic nature. This has led to his making historical and cultural mistakes. In addition to this, he mentioned exaggerated figures that have

nothing to do with the real situation, something which shows his superficiality and inaccuracy, and that he relied on information from one side and on one short visit to Iraq, through which he cannot, in any case, come up with accurate information or reach any objective conclusions.

5. The special rapporteur deliberately ignored Iraq's situation during the aggression against it, and the riots and their negative impact on human rights, through the accompanying violations of human rights by the allied states and the elements which were behind the riots. He also ignored the Iraqi Government's efforts to overcome the difficulties it is facing as a result of the extraordinary circumstances it has experienced and is experiencing.

6. It is painful to say that the special rapporteur refused to recognize the effects of the blockade on human rights in Iraq. He also refused to deal with this issue, through which an entire people's right to a dignified life is being violated. How can a person who is entrusted with studying the conditions of human rights in Iraq ridicule and show indifference to an issue which concerns the lives of 18 million people, and also ignore the effects of this blockade on the political, civilian, social, and economic rights of those people?

7. The media campaign the special rapporteur launched before and after submitting his report proves his effective participation in the political campaign against Iraq, especially since he is one of its facets. This constitutes a violation of the recognized principles of the work of the special rapporteurs, who usually show concern about safeguarding neutrality and being free of any political purposes.

The course pursued by the special rapporteur and the results and conclusions he drew, based as they are on inaccurate and undocumented information, constitute a precedent in international relations and in the work of the special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Commission. It goes without saying that the work of these rapporteurs should be characterized by seriousness, depth, objectivity, carefulness, and persistence. They should carefully monitor the human rights situation in the countries of the world, and should cooperate and deal with all parties concerned within the framework of an objective dialogue, with a view to boosting human rights, as we have already said. This has made it clear to Iraq that the appointment of the aforementioned rapporteur and the issuance of his report in this manner are meant to achieve known political objectives.

This new trend constitutes a persistence in violating the independence and sovereignty of states, and an interference in their internal affairs. If Iraq is the victim of the terrorism practiced by some of the known big powers, then many other countries will face the same situation Iraq is now facing under the pretext of the so-called new world order. Also, this is a violation of the noble objectives of the Human Rights Commission and a politicalization of the commission.

Based on this, the Government of Iraq rejects the information and recommendations mentioned in the report because they are not objective, and because the rapporteur departed from his human mission and showed his bias.

Iraq stresses its full, principled readiness to cooperate positively with the Human Rights Commission to boost and promote human rights.

Kurdish Party Calls for Ending 'Unjust' Blockade

JN2402121592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1102 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA)—The Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party [KRP] has appealed to world organizations and human rights groups to shoulder their legal, ethical, and humanitarian responsibilities in order to immediately end the genocide—led by the imperialist Americans—brought against the Iraqi people through the unjust economic blockade.

In a message addressed to the UN secretary general, the KRP Political Bureau held these organizations legally and ethically responsible, and called on them to move within international organizations and the Security Council to stop this genocide, in which the weapon of blockade is used, and to prevent and condemn any foreign attempt to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. The KRP Political Bureau noted the hideous crime perpetrated by the U.S. Administration and Zionism against the lofty people of Iraq—the crime represented by depriving the Iraqi people of food and medicine. The KRP Political Bureau also called for unconditionally lifting the economic blockade and for ending the suffering of the millions of sons of Iraq.

'Imperialist Conspiracy' Seen in Washington Talks

JN2402183992 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: Fierce and bloody fighting continues in southern Lebanon, spilling the blood of innocent Palestinians and Lebanese. The valiant people of the West Bank and Gaza proceed with their heroic struggle against the enemy occupier and its expansionist settlement designs—thus announcing their rejection of the occupation, its oppressive laws, and its criminal schemes. But while this happens, and while fighting against the enemy intensifies, Arab delegations today resume their reconciliatory meetings with the Zionist enemy in Washington, in a fourth round of bargaining over the rights of our Palestinian people and the implementation of the UN resolutions.

Today's round comes amid diplomatic and press speculation that it will end after seven or eight days, at the most, in the same failure as previous rounds. The Zionist-American enemy is not using the negotiations to reach a just solution to the Palestine question and the

Arab-Zionist conflict, but to dilute UN resolutions and complicate their implementation, with the final objective of imposing a fait accompli. If this is not the case, then what is the meaning of these negotiations amid total U.S. and Arab silence? How can one explain the fact that Washington is putting up UN resolutions on the Palestine question for discussion—after having refused to implement them for 40 years—while it rejected any discussion and any negotiation over the resolutions concerning the Gulf? How can the United States remain noncommittal, refusing, as Bush claims, to interfere in the Washington negotiations, when Bush entered a bloody war in the Gulf, and when the aggressive Zionist military operations in southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza are continuing?

All indications are that the Washington talks, which enter their fourth round today, are nothing more than an extension of the imperialist conspiracy which started in 1947 against our Palestinian and Arab people. These indications underscore the fact that negotiations are not the best nor the shortest way to carry the Palestine question to the just and comprehensive solution sought by our militant masses. Militancy, armed struggle, and confrontation of the enemy remain the best ways to achieve our noble objective of liberation.

Opposition Conference Witnesses 'Severe Conflict'

NC2302165892 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 14 Feb 92 p 4

[By Marwan Sukkar in Damascus]

[Text] The Iraqi opposition currently in the Syrian capital continues its meetings. Since 15 February, the general secretariat of the preparatory committee has been holding extensive meetings of the delegations representing 25 opposition parties and movements inside and outside Iraq. For the first time, a delegation of the independent opposition residing abroad took part in these meetings, led by Mr. Husayn al-Sadr. Surprisingly, he left the meetings and returned home to London, boycotting the meetings.

AL-DIYAR has learned from sources close to al-Sadr that his boycott of the meetings came as a result of a severe conflict. The preparatory committee rejected the attendance of the independent delegation at the meeting. The sources also said that there is a significant difference of opinion between the preparatory committee and the independents.

AL-DIYAR met with 'Ali Sanjari, Kurdistan Democratic Union secretary general, and asked him about the results of the current meetings in Damascus, and the reasons for the delay in fixing the time and place of the opposition's second general congress. He answered: The dispute continues between the opposition's general committee and the Kurdistan Front, which represents eight parties. There are two important points being discussed. First, if the opposition's second general congress is in Kurdistan, the Kurdistan Front will not bear the expenses of this congress. Second, if the congress convenes and a resolution to struggle against Saddam's regime is passed, the Kurdistan Front will break all relations with Saddam Husayn's regime. This means that the Kurdistan Front will clash with the government, and Saddam Husayn will cut all food and fuel supplies to the Kurdistan region. He will starve the Kurdish people. The opposition will have to find an alternative.

From the discussions, it became clear that the opposition cannot secure such an alternative.

The situation of the Kurdish opposition is different from that of the rest of the Iraqi opposition, since the Kurdistan Front is located inside Iraq and is directly responsible for the destiny of 4 million Kurds living in northern Iraq.

He concluded: The more important point in the dispute among the opposition is that the Kurdistan Front demands the Iraqi opposition be committed to recognizing the Kurdish people's right to self-determination. It also has to guarantee establishing a federal system in Iraq after Saddam Husayn's regime is toppled. He pointed out that this request has not yet received a frank response from the opposition.

Regarding the true forces that could topple the current Iraqi regime, Sanjari said: Through my position inside Iraq, my party responsibility, and my relations with all opposition factions and parties inside and outside Iraq, I repeat that the only qualified and competent force capable of performing this decisive role in this issue is the military. We have continuous contacts with this institution. Opposition inside the military is strong and effective, as demonstrated by the number of coup attempts against the regime since the liberation of Kuwait, the execution of scores of officials, and the pensioning off of hundreds of officials due to lack of trust.

SAIRI Leader Warns of Military Campaigns

PM2602143592 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 25 Feb 92 p 1

[By Ibrahim Khalid 'Asi: "Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq Tells SAWT AL-KUWAYT: 'We Look Forward to Relations of Brotherhood and Common Interests With Kuwait'"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh—[passage omitted] Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], warned that the Iraqi Government will launch a military campaign in southern Iraq within the next two weeks. Saddam, he said, is trying to foment disunity among Iraqis and opposition parties, with the aim of remaining in power. [passage omitted]

Al-Hakim told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that Iraqis of all groups stand by the Kuwaiti people, and that SAIRI

opposed the invasion and, issuing a statement in the early days of Saddam's aggression in which it called for resistance to the aggression.

The SAIRI chairman pointed out that government forces are preparing a large-scale campaign against the southern areas—where resistance is widespread—and that March has been set as a date for the campaign, which will be followed by another campaign against the northern areas. Our information, he added, confirms that there have been large-scale movements in the military sectors for two months, and certain units are conducting special exercises for combat in the southern areas and the marshes.

On the Iraqi opposition's activities inside Iraq, al-Hakim said: "We have extensive contacts with organizations inside, including armed organizations carrying out resistance operations. We also have links, contacts, and activities inside the Army. There are 600 Iraqi officers outside the country who are setting up a communications network inside the military establishment." [passage omitted]

Minister Meridor 'Not Very Happy' With U.S.

TA2602185692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Justice Minister Dan Meridor said today that, with its position on loan guarantees, the United States has interfered with the peace process and given Arab negotiators an unfair advantage. Speaking in Jerusalem to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Meridor said the United States had gone back on its position that it would not link immigrant aid with the settlement issue. Miryam Herschlag reports:

[Begin recording] [Herschlag] Justice Minister Dan Meridor told the American Jewish leaders that until recently he was optimistic about the peace process, both because the United States had helped create the conditions for peace talks and because it had not intervened in the content of the talks, but, as he later explained, the pressure on Israel to halt settlement activity in the territories has given the Arabs an alternative to negotiations and compromise.

[Meridor] If they feel that they have to do nothing, sit on the side, and wait for others to do their job regarding the question of settlement, then I am afraid it will be disincentive, not the incentive needed for the peace process. That is why I was not very happy with the American statements and leakings from the American newspapers just this week.

[Herschlag] Is the United States now unable to be an honest broker in full?

[Meridor] I would not say that. I would just say that if the perception that the Arabs would have from the American policy would be that the Americans are negotiating—the Americans are pressuring Israel—the Arabs will wait and not do a thing. If the Arabs go back to their dreams of causing a surrender of Israel by outside power, then there won't be peace.

[Herschlag] In his address to the Conference of Presidents, the justice minister also charged that the United States had, for the first time, brought the issue of Jewish immigration to Israel into the peace formula, something no Arab leader ever dared ask for, and this, said Meridor, after Secretary Baker recently announced there would be no linkage.

[Meridor] One cannot but remember that if it walks like a duck and talks like a duck, it's a duck. [end recording]

Officials Foresee Debate on Size of Guarantees

TA2602123092 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Feb 92 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpt] Following Secretary of State James Baker's sharp statements before both houses of Congress, officials in Jerusalem are trying to downplay the differences with the United States pertaining to the loan guarantee issue. Senior officials in Jerusalem expressed the opinion that what Baker really meant was that the administration was making the size of the guarantees issued conditional on the degree to which Israel reduces the scope of its construction and building of infrastructure in the territories.

The less Israel promises to cut back in construction and the building of infrastructure, the smaller the guarantees will be. Hence, Jerusalem does not feel that there has been a categorical U.S. refusal to issue the guarantees and believes that the debate now revolves around how much of the funds will be slashed. Israel's representatives in Washington thus have been instructed not to react to Baker's statements so as not to exacerbate the confrontation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Editorial Stresses Importance of Guarantees

TA2602132792 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Feb 92 p 2

[Commentary by Sever Plotzker: "Yes, We Need Their Favors"]

[Text] What is all this fuss around some paltry $10 billion, asked Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i two days ago. The minister added that to absorb Soviet immigrants, Israel will need $50 billion in the next five years, while it has asked the United States for a mere $10 billion in credit guarantees. So, Bush and Baker, stop threatening us. We will manage without your favors.

Moda'i's calculation is basically wrong. Israel could possibly manage somehow without the guarantees had it not requested them in the first place. As things stand now, Israel's capability to raise a significant amount of foreign currency in international credit markets depends crucially on the guarantees.

If we do not get the U.S. guarantees for $10 billion of credit, we will receive no serious credit abroad at all.

In the absence of guarantees, the Israeli economy will be left without productive investments and will be unable to offer proper absorption to the 800,000 Jews planning to emigrate from the former USSR to Israel. They will not come, and we will miss the greatest opportunity in history to become a strong and prosperous Jewish state.

This is the price. The finance minister knows it very well. It is a shame that he is avoiding saying it out loud.

Commentator on Prospects for Unity Government

TA2502160192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Feb 92 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "The Worst Is Still Ahead of Them"]

[Text] I do not want to be a party pooper, but the joy of Yitzhaq Shamir and Yitzhaq Rabin over their respective victories was premature. A small detail was all but omitted in the heat of the cheering and toasting, which is that neither Shamir nor Rabin attained the support of the majority of their parties.

Although they were elected heads of their parties and candidates for prime minister, both Shamir and Rabin represent a minority. Had Rabin received 200 fewer votes, he would not have been elected in the first round. Had the Likud not dropped the threshold from 50 to 40 percent of the vote, Shamir would not have been elected in the first round either. For both men, a second round could have had unexpected results. Rumor has it that Shamir had no intention of running in a second round, while in Labor there is no telling who would have allied with whom against Rabin in a second round of voting.

The outcome of the vote constitutes an innovation in our political life: both leaders actually represent minorities—one represents approximately 40 percent, while the other represents 46 percent. Conversely, one can argue that about 60 percent of Labor members do not want Rabin as prime minister, while 54 percent of Likud members do not want Shamir. This is a particularly severe slap in the face for Shamir, who, after two terms as prime minister, and despite his reputation as "omnipotent," did not muster the overwhelming support of his party.

In the United States, Germany, or Britain such results would be interpreted as a landslide because, according to their tradition, the winner (the exact vote count does not matter) automatically becomes the exclusive ruler. The losers disappear into oblivion—in the House of Lords or the private sector—or else they write their memoirs. They no longer play leading roles in their parties. They definitely do not remain within the government or expect to be assigned jobs, certainly not to "compensate" for their defeat. However, that is not the case in our country. Our politicians stay glued to their seats. The losers organize in camps and immediately demand their slice of the pie, thus depriving the winners of their freedom for maneuvering and action. What is worse, they immediately start to sabotage the winners.

Both Yitzhaqs are in a bind. The traditional 60-40 percent division has disappeared for the first time in two decades. Until now, the loser could claim to command many followers with whom he has had to share the spoils, while the winner could claim an absolute majority. Now the division is 40-35-20-5 percent. Together, Qeysar and Peres have more followers than the winner.

At the moment everybody is putting up a show of unity, but you should not be taken in by appearances. Behind the scenes things are brewing. In an article published in this paper on Sunday, my colleague Gid'on Levi rightly described the deep personal animosity felt in the Peres camp toward Rabin. Qeysar is sure he is the real winner, and it makes no difference to him that by any international standard he lost.

Seeing that neither Peres nor Qeysar has received the Nobel Prize for well-wishing, it is only a matter of time before Rabin finds himself in the midst of domestic infighting and the target of sabotage. To maintain the momentum of his victory Rabin will have to make ruthless decisions. He may have to strike an alliance with Qeysar (who commands a well-oiled machine that would be helpful in the general elections) and try to present the voters with a new, fresh, and young leadership. One of people he disapproves of. The question is: Does he have what it takes to make such decisions or will he be tempted into imaginary reconciliations?

Shamir's situation is not much different. The 54 percent attained by Levi and Sharon exceed Shamir's showing. Shamir has yet to get his followers—headed by Moshe Arens as the number two man—approved as Knesset members to assure his continued stay in power. The Likud does not even make a pretense at harmony. Sharon, who mustered unprecedented support in the Central Committee, is challenging Shamir's leadership, while Levi made his declaration of war at the very same Central Committee session that elected Shamir. Then there are all the other leeches and bloodsuckers: the divided Liberals, Efrayim Gur, Aharon Abu-Hatzera, and Yitzhaq Moda'i. And let us not forget George Bush, not a registered member of the Likud, who, due to the guarantees, has on his own merit become a camp sabotaging Shamir's rule.

In sum, the internal political situation is the pits: parties are split and on the verge of war; leaders are without real mandates. The elections will take place in exactly four months. Before we start speculating on who will win and before we bore the reader with analyses and scenarios about the next government, we had better wait and see what happens in the two parties until then: who is nominated as Knesset member and who strikes an alliance with whom or against whom. It is no coincidence that NASA chose to send an Israeli nest of hornets aboard the next space shuttle. No other country has such reserves of hornets in its political parties.

With the worst still ahead of them, both Yitzhaqs might arrive at the elections in four months angry, wounded, and worn out. After all they have yet to go through. I would not be surprised if they ultimately find solace in each other's arms.

Tehiya Votes on List for Knesset Elections

TA2402060592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The Tehiya party council voted last night on its list for the upcoming Knesset election. Ge'ula Kohen was elected to the second spot on the list, behind party leader Yuval Ne'eman. Elyaqim Ha'etzni beat out Knesset Member Gershon Shafat, party Secretary Dani

Dayan, and Beni Katzover for third place on the list. Earlier, Ha'etzni had said he would resign from the Knesset if he wasn't elected to the third spot on the list.

The party also decided last night to try to form a united front with Rehav'am Ze'evi's Moledet party. [passage omitted]

Yeshiva, Waqf Dispute Ownership of Old City Wall

TA2602123192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Feb 92 p A7

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] The 'Ateret Kohanim yeshiva has appealed to Jerusalem Municipality to tear down iron support rods from a wall near the Western Wall in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. The yeshiva students pray every Sabbath near the exposed wall, which is a continuation of the Western Wall.

The yeshiva students take care of maintenance, clean away trash, and store benches used during prayers in an adjacent warehouse.

The Muslim Waqf also claims ownership of that portion of the wall, which was part of the Temple Mount's western supporting wall. The iron rods were sunk to support a nearby house whose foundations collapsed in the 1970's.

According to the professional opinion of engineers brought to the site by 'Ateret Kohanim officials, there is no longer any need for this support. Upon the request of Shmu'el Me'ir, a member of Jerusalem's municipal council from the NRP [National Religious Party], Mikha'el Gal, director general of the municipality, toured the site a few weeks ago. There is still no decision regarding the 'Ateret Kohanim request, and no steps have been taken in the field so far.

EC Rejects Intervention in Funds for Territories

TA2602124192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Feb 92 p A7

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The EC will not accept any Israeli intervention in the allocation of $80 million to economic projects in the territories. This was reported yesterday from the EC's representation in Israel, following yesterday's report in HA'ARETZ about differences of opinion between Israel and the EC representative on this subject.

Officials in Jerusalem rejected the EC's interpretation of the issue, according to which it only has to report to the Israeli authorities about those aid projects for the residents of the territories that require Israeli cooperation.

Gwyn Morgan, head of the EC representation in Israel, yesterday asserted that Israel had withdrawn its claim that the visit of Thomas Dupla, the EC representative in the territories, was not reported in time to the Foreign Ministry. Morgan claimed that the Foreign Ministry had even apologized that for some reason the Israeli Embassy in Brussels had failed to inform the appropriate department in Jerusalem.

Authoritative sources at the Foreign Ministry yesterday said that they had no knowledge of any communications mishap with the embassy in Brussels.

Detainee Released After Complaint of Torture

TA2302085892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Amin Muhammad Amin, the detainee who appealed to the High Court of Justice against the police claiming that they will not release him from Shin Bet interrogations despite his poor physical condition, was discharged from detention this morning.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that he was kept in the Shin Bet detention facility in Hebron for two weeks and that during his interrogations he collapsed several times and required medical treatment. A military judge who examined Amin's case ordered that his complaint that he had been tortured while in interrogation be investigated.

Bush Position Seen as 'Real Service' to Peace

JN2702100592 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Feb 92 p 1

[Editorial: "A Positive U.S. Position"]

[Text] The position adopted by U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker on the loan guarantees requested by Israel indicates a positive stance in the policy of the U.S. Administration. This position effectively linked these loans to a halt to Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories.

When President Bush declared from his presidential airplane—while on his way to California at the beginning of his presidential campaign—that he will not retreat from his position on granting loan guarantees to Israel, and when James Baker stressed in his testimony before the Congress that the Hebrew state must choose between the loan guarantees and settlement, this indicated that there is a good U.S. position which is becoming more effective, and that the Bush administration intends to stop the frantic Israeli settlement campaign in a more serious manner, and with all available means of pressure.

We have no doubt that this declared U.S. position will boost U.S. credibility among the Arabs, in the Middle East, and around the world. It is the main catalyst for the peace process in the region, and the real father of all efforts made since last spring to push the parties to the conflict to negotiate on reaching a peaceful settlement, based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

We believe, therefore, that the U.S. position, which comes amid the current Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington, will also serve the peace process, especially since it is related to one of the most important topics on the agenda of the negotiations; namely, halting settlements as a necessary prelude to proceeding along the road toward a just and comprehensive settlement, based on the principles of international legitimacy. Hence, we commend this U.S. position, and view it as a real service to the cause of peace in the Middle East.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

JN2502125592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya arrived in Amman this morning on a three-day visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with senior Jordanian officials and hold talks with the foreign minister, Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir.

Meets With Abu-Jabir

JN2602141292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya praised the brotherly ties between the political leaders and the fraternal peoples of Jordan and Tunisia. He also hailed the constant cooperation between them, cooperation marked by continuity and constant growth.

The Tunisian minister was speaking to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY following his meeting this evening with Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir at his residence.

He said that he carries a written message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother, His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He added: The Tunisian president has asked me to convey his greetings and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn and to the Jordanian Government and fraternal people.

Delivers Message to King Husayn

JN2602141692 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Prime Ministry today the Tunisian minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Habib Ben Yahya, in the presence of the prime minister, Mr. Zayd Bin-Shakir; Mr. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, the chief of the Royal Court; and Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, the foreign minister.

The Tunisian minister handed his majesty the king a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in which he expressed his greetings and his best wishes for his majesty the king and the Jordanian people. The Tunisian minister also expressed the desire of the Tunisian Government to augment the existing cooperation between the two countries.

Cabinet Discusses Economy, German Hostages

NC2602211892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Statement by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami after 26 February cabinet meeting—recorded]

[Excerpts] At the conclusion of its meeting a short while ago, the cabinet took a number of measures addressing the monetary situation. Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said: The cabinet held a meeting today devoted to discussing the monetary situation and the pressure facing the Lebanese pound. Reasons for this pressure include inflation and other temporary factors resulting from the Israeli aggression against the south, as well as rumors biased against the Lebanese economy in general, and the banking sector in particular. This is part of the pressure being put on Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Karami continued: The cabinet stressed Lebanon's ability to overcome this temporary crisis in view of its sound economic, financial, and monetary situation. Lebanon is facing what any country might confront when it moves from a destructive war to a time of peace and reconstruction.

The cabinet also decided to assign a ministerial committee to address the issue of the two German hostages being held in Lebanon. I hope that a quick and proper solution is found.

Buwayz: 'New U.S. Momentum' in Negotiations

NC2602184892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] The Lebanese and Israeli delegations' talks are continuing in Washington. Ambassador Suhayl Shammas is scheduled to meet with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, later today.

Commenting on the Washington talks, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that there has been no progress in the talks. The only positive thing, he noted, is the new U.S. momentum in dealing with the negotiations.

Al-Murr, Goulding Discuss UN Interim Force

NC2702111492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Referring to the outcome of his talks with UN Assistant Secretary General Marrack Goulding, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said that the United Nations continues to adhere to its position rejecting the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south alongside the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. He said that the UN forces are ready to evacuate their positions once the Army decides to move in.

Hizballah Leader: Resistance 'Our Divine Right'

NC2702081292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] In an interview with our radio and with IRNA, His Eminence al-Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, Hizballah secretary general, pointed out that resistance is our divine right, and we will continue it. We do not need anyone's permission, although some government officials have stressed the people's right to resist occupation.

Regarding the launching of katyushas at the occupied territories, and the outcry against them, His Eminence al-Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah said it is incorrect to specify restrictions in this regard. He added: When the enemy set out to bombard al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi's convoy, it did not set out from Lebanon, but from the land of Palestine. Nasrallah added: We are eager to maintain the most effective means, and those closest to achieving our goals; it is impermissible to deny the resistance the right to deal painful blows while the enemy is resorting to all means, without any constraints.

His Eminence Nasrallah said that following the assassination of 'Allamah 'Abbas al-Musawi, the enemy embarked on a new incursion attempt, thinking that with the martyrdom of al-Musawi, the opportunity would be ripe to deal a military blow that could shake the infrastructure of the resistance. But this idea was mistaken, he added, because no matter how scientifically advanced the enemy is, it does not easily understand the moral and spiritual effects the martyrdom of a great man such as 'Abbas al-Musawi has. Hence, the military attempt to enter Kafra and Yatar to murder as many mujahidin as possible, destroy their homes, and take control of some of the overlooking hills to block the resistance work, he added.

His eminence added: We do not believe that the Zionist advance aimed to occupy these villages and stay there, so some official politicians could claim that international pressure and diplomacy forced the enemy to withdraw. The enemy did not enter these villages to stay; the entry was part of a destructive process to commit a massacre and to undermine Hizballah's morale, he added.

The secretary general of Hizballah said that proof of the Zionist operation's failure is the fact that the enemy troops could not enter the villages, because of the heroism and enthusiasm shown by the mujahidin. He emphasized the enemy's failure, after more than 10 hours of constant fighting, using all types of weapons and with intervention by aircraft, to stay even on the overlooking hills, thanks to the nature of the confrontation with the mujahidin. His eminence disclosed that six enemy soldiers, including a captain, had been killed during the confrontation, while no resistance men were martyred.

His eminence concluded by affirming that the Zionist aggression is continuing, and is expected at any moment and any day; it is the duty of the mujahidin not to be lax or disregard this enemy for a single moment.

Pro-Iranian Group Claims Attacks on Israel

NC2402204692 Paris AFP in English 2004 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Beirut, Feb 24 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad in Palestine group on Monday claimed responsibility for a string of attacks in Israel and the occupied territories aimed at avenging the death of Hizballah leader Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi in an Israeli air raid.

An Islamic Jihad commando was responsible for an attack in the West Bank town of Janin in which one Israeli was wounded early Monday, the group said in a statement here.

"A Zionist security officer was executed and three settlers were wounded" in the attack. A submachine gun was also seized by the commando which reportedly returned to its base.

The group also claimed responsibility for knifing Israeli civilians last Friday at Kefar Sava near Tel Aviv. One Israeli was killed and three wounded, it said.

Sunday "several Jewish settlers" were injured when an Islamic Jihad bomb exploded at a bus terminal at Jilo in East Jerusalem, the group said, adding that one of its commandos also attacked a guard at Sila, a Jewish settlement near Janin, the same day.

UN Mission in New York Target of Bombing

JN2702100492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] The Syrian mission to the United Nations was the target of an explosive device, which went off at the entrance of the building housing the Syrian mission in New York yesterday. The explosion did not result in any casualties.

A letter calling for the release of Syrian Jews was found near the scene.

Kahana Movement Claims Responsibility

JN2702094092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] In New York, the fanatical Zionist Kahana organization today claimed responsibility for placing two bombs, one of which exploded yesterday, outside a UN building in New York.

Commentary: Israel 'Out To Torpedo' Talks

JN2502181692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1249 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] At yesterday's peace talks in Washington, our delegation and the other Arab negotiating teams raised issues of substance, and yet the outcome has been disappointing. Rather than addressing the basic elements of the conflict, the members of Israel's team—in compliance with instructions from their leaders—resorted to equivocation and a skewed interpretation of UN Security Council resolutions that disallow the acquisition of territory by force, and urge the Zionist entity to evacuate the land it conquered in 1967.

By declaring their refusal to leave the occupied Arab territory or to bring settlement construction to a halt, Israeli officials are out to torpedo the third round of the Washington talks before they even get off the ground. Yitzhaq Shamir issued a string of provocative, defiant, and strident statements, in which he declared that settlement building will continue unabated, and that Israel will not be dragged into a situation that compromises the construction of settlements. Among other things, Shamir said that the Jews are entitled to live wherever they wish in the occupied land—which he called the land of Israel—and that he is not about to call a halt to settlement building, not even for one day. Shamir criticized the U.S. Administration and rejected any conditions attached to the loan guarantees. Israel will not accept American dictates or let the Americans defy Israel, Shamir declared.

The question to be asked is: Who dictates to whom, the U.S. Administration to Israel, or Israel to the U.S. Administration? Obviously, it is Israel that is doing the dictating, and it is Israel that is bleeding the American treasury and taxpayers. Israel is against any American strings being attached to the way in which its vast U.S. aid is spent—aid that literally pours into the enemy entity, and is translated into bullets to kill innocent Arabs and settlements on their territory. Israel's conduct testifies to a retreat of international law and conventions before its aggression. As if to provide evidence of Israel's underestimation of the peace process, Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon announced that 22 housing units [figure as heard] are being constructed, thus contradicting the reported building of only 6,000 units. Without a doubt, Shamir's statements and the statistic disclosed by Sharon seek to scuttle the peace process and to present the international community with an established fact. Any statesman or political leader anywhere in the world understands that peace in the Middle East will not be attainable until Palestinian rights—above all self-determination—and withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories are secured. Israeli leaders refuse even to talk about the future of the occupied Arab land, which they view as an integral part of a superstitious Biblical promise, and which they are sowing with settlements and settlers. Some future for Palestinians living under conditions of actual Zionist annexation of the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza! How can the Palestinian people exercise self-determination when Israeli officials confiscate their land and leave them the choice of either starvation or departure from their homeland?

The Arabs joined the Madrid conference, and later the Washington talks, out of a belief in the sanctity of a fair peace to which they and the world aspire. They responded favorably to the U.S. initiative, projecting a swap of territory for peace and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The Arab delegations to the Washington talks have yet to be able to raise substantive issues or to consolidate a plan for true, comprehensive peace—a plan that can lift the Middle East from the maelstrom of wars and conflicts. The Arab delegations came to Washington determined to bring up substantive issues, not least of which are an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, Palestinian rights, and the settlement issue. Not one world leader will dispute the Arab argument that these constitute the core of the Arab-Zionist conflict, and that peace will remain elusive without a radical solution, under which rights are restored to those to whom they belong. In other words, Israel's evasion of these issues by presenting fallacious and distorted interpretations shows disdain for peace and the peace process itself, and defiance of the international community. It is incumbent upon the international community to take on this challenge and to stand up for its principles, conventions, and credibility, lest Shamir use the peace process as a diversion or cover for his aggressive strategies and to advance the odds for his reelection.

Shamir's 'Bellicose Terms' Denounced

JN2302073192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In their commentaries, newspapers continue to discuss the peace process and the intransigent Israeli stand, which is aimed at torpedoing Middle East peace efforts.

In its commentary, the newspaper AL-BA'TH views the repeated statements made by enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, which the paper sees as a full-scale action plan that will be put into effect during the next phase, if Yitzhaq Shamir wins the upcoming elections.

The paper adds: Shamir has begun to publicly state that he is actually endeavoring to establish greater Israel. This was made clear when, using the most bellicose terms, he stated that Israel's objectives are not confined to the occupation of the whole of Arab Palestine. He added that the objectives go much further than this, because Greater Israel, as the terrorist Shamir views it, is all of the Arab land.

The paper reviews Shamir's old yet new platform, which calls for using all possible means to establish more settlements, bring in more Jews, and hold on to the occupied Arab territories; not to mention the peace-for-peace slogan he raises—a slogan that is diametrically opposed to U.S. President George Bush's peace initiative. This initiative is basically anchored in the land-for-peace formula; namely, implementing international resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: Israel wants peace only to perpetrate further aggression and expansion at the expense of the Arabs.

India

Ministers on Israeli Defense Aid, Pakistan Mirages

BK2702084292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] The government says there is no proposal to seek Israel's cooperation in the field of defense. The minister of state for defense, Mr. Krishnakumar, told the Rajya Sabha that a decision will be taken at the appropriate time about collaboration with Tel Aviv on fighting terrorist activities.

Replying to a supplementary, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said India will accept from Israel anything which is useful for security.

The government is aware of the possible supply of two squadrons of Mirage to Pakistan by France and will take necessary steps to ensure the country's security. The minister of state for defense, Mr. Krishnakumar, told the Rajya Sabha if acquired, these would enhance the multi-role capability of Pakistan's Air Force. He said the French Government has been told about India's concern about arms sale to Pakistan, disproportionate to its legitimate needs.

'Concern' at Pakistani Mirage Purchase

BK2602123192 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] New Delhi—Pakistan's acquisition of 40 French Mirage-2000 fighters that can carry tactical nuclear weapons is a cause of concern, specially because Islamabad has now openly claimed nuclear capability, say defence planners.

Even though India had a well-guarded western airspace bordering Pakistan, several North Indian cities in Punjab Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan could come under direct air attack as these fighters could launch an attack and return to their bases quickly.

Previous air war experience also showed that the PAF [Pakistani Air Force] prefers to attack border Indian towns and wait for the Indian Air Force jets to attack targets deep in Pakistan. The PAF hopes to track down and kill IAF [Indian Air Force] jets with the help of sophisticated radar systems.

Pakistan went shopping in France after the US decided to stop supply of any more F-16 "Fighting Falcons" or their spares following Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme.

Pakistan's air defence system revolves around the F-16 and many of which are reported to be grounded due to cracks and lack of spares.

Latest reports say that France was supplying Mirage-2000s (strike) version to Pakistan, which is a conventional attack version of Mirage-2000 D more advanced than the version (Mirage-2000 H and Mirage-2000 TH) acquired by India in the eighties.

Major improvement in the aircraft are the induction of a better radar as well as a new central processing unit for its air data computer and a holographic head-up display for the pilot, experts here said.

However, serious reservations have been expressed by several Pakistani defence experts and PAF personnel over the recent Mirage deal, according to published reports in Pakistan.

The Pak daily 'MUSLIM' quoting a number of defence experts said the aircraft were "obsolete, inferior, costly and expensive maintenance-wise."

The daily said these Mirages were originally meant for sale to the Jordanian Air Force in 1986 but the deal could not materialise. These Mirages remained static in different hangars in France.

It is believed that one Mirage-2000 aircraft will cost $50 million, including ground equipment and spare parts for one year.

Pakistan is buying these aircraft ostensibly to match the Indian air capability, but Pakistani experts suggest that "Pakistan is buying technology in which India is at least eight years ahead."

Defence experts here say that Pakistan may be operating Mirage- 2000 as a fighter bomber. If the PAF was using the aircraft as a bomber it would be under highly effective Indian air defence control and under heavier configuration because the aircraft would be carrying heavy load ammunition.

In the interceptor role, PAF Mirage 2000 would be again vulnerable to anti-aircraft missiles as well as an array of high performance fighter and air-to-air missiles.

Pak defence experts say the Mirage uses fuel at a very high rate and needs full power whereas the F-16 equivalent can out fight it with 75 per cent of power available.

'Breach of Privilege' Cited on Budget Leak

BK2502132292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Both the houses of parliament were rocked today over the alleged reports of World Bank's access to the union budget for 1992-93 with the National Front and Left Front members giving notice of breach of privilege against the finance minister in the Rajya Sabha. While the proceedings in the upper house came to a halt for about 40 minutes, the Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned several times. The opposition members alleged that the World Bank knew the budget proposals even before these were presented to parliament and that

the country's economic sovereignty was being surrendered. In the Lok Sabha, they demanded placing on the table the correspondence between the finance minister and the World Bank.

Dr. Manmohan Singh in a statement assured the house that the sanctity of the budget is being fully preserved and he is ready to place his correspondence with the World Bank in the parliament library after the presentation of the budget. The opposition members persisted with their demands for placing the letter on the table of the house. In the Rajya Sabha, uproar ended when the chairman, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, assured the house that he would ask the government for its comments on the privilege notice within 24 hours.

"No Impropriety" in Letter to World Bank

BK2702113392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0935 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, assured the Lok Sabha that no impropriety has been committed by him in writing the letter to the World Bank. He said the letter only lays down the economic direction the government intends to follow, which was extensively debated in parliament. Asserting that there is no leakage of the budget process, Dr. Singh said the letter was an outcome of the negotiations the government had with the World Bank for structural adjustment loan.

In the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mr. P.R. Kumaramangalam, said that the government has nothing to hide from the members and is ready to place any document on the table of the house on a direction from the chairman. This assurance was given when the opposition members alleged that the entire communication between India and the World Bank had not been tabled in the house yesterday by the finance minister. The opposition members alleged that documents give indications about yielding to World Bank pressure.

BJP Decides To Vote Against Railway Budget

BK2502130092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] A 20 percent increase in higher class fares, a marginal hike in second class ordinary and express train fares and increase of 7.5 percent in freight rates with exemption to essential commodities are the highlights of the railway budget presented to the Lok Sabha today. New tariff proposals to be effective from 1 April are to yield an additional revenue of 1,366 crore rupees. Increased focus on passenger amenities and a move to run the railway transport on business lines are the other features of the second successive budget of Mr. C. K. Jaffar Sharif. The minister proposed introduction of 15 new services and launching of own-your-wagon and container schemes as part of the new marketing strategy. The minister announced that there will be no increase in the platform ticket, second class ordinary fare up to 10 km and sleeper [sleeping berth] surcharge up to 500 km. He, however, proposed a suitable increase for Rajdhani, Shatabdi [express trains] and New Delhi-Bombay AC Express on line with upper class fares. The minister also announced some marginal changes in the monthly season ticket rates. He revised the second class sleeper surcharge for distances from 501 km to 1,000 km. The new rate will be 25 rupees—a hike of five rupees. The minister said freight rates for all commodities, except essential commodities and coal, will go up by 7.5 percent. The increase in case of coal will be four percent. About the annual plan for 1992-93 of the railways, the minister said the outlay will be 5,700 crore rupees, of which 550 crores will be utilized for gauge conversion.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, L.K. Advani, has said that his party will move a cut motion and vote against the railway budget. He described the hike in rail fares and freight rates as unprecedented.

The deputy leader of the Janata Dal in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Ramvilas Paswan, has described the railway budget as inflationary. In a statement, he said the hike in the passenger fares and the freight charges will hit the common man.

Revival of Political Process in Kashmir Noted

BK2702045992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Commentary by Balraj Puri, Director of Institute of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs]

[Text] The first meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir State Advisory Council was held in Srinagar yesterday. It intended to be a major step toward restoration of the political process in the state. Political activities in Kashmir had come to a standstill two years ago when in the wake of growing militant activities and after the appointment of Mr. Jagmohan as governor, the chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, resigned and later the state assembly was dissolved. Thereafter, some political leaders left the valley due to a sense of insecurity. Some were actually killed by the militants, while some others were detained by the government for alleged involvement in secessionist activities. While militancy caused a collapse of politics in the Kashmir valley, it is equally true that the decline of politics contributed significantly to the rise of militancy.

In this sense, revival of politics is considered not only a step toward democracy, but also an antidote to militancy. Though militancy in Jammu and Kashmir was confined to the valley, normal political activities suffered in other two regions of Jammu and Ladakh also in the absence of a popular government. There are, however, formidable difficulties in restoring the full democratic process at one go at any rate in the Kashmir valley. The State Advisory Council, as everybody would concede, is no substitute for an elected assembly or a responsible government. Its limitations are obvious. But,

even if the council achieves its limited objective, it will be an exercise worth taking.

The composition of the Advisory Council has raised some controversies. There are parties, interests, ethnic groups in this multi-ethnic and multi-religious state which have not been represented or which are not satisfied with the quantum of their representation. Some leaders, including those belonging to the National Conference and the Congress-I from the Kashmir Valley have declined to serve on the council. Better homework before announcing the composition of the council could have avoided such a situation.

The foremost objective of the advisory council is to provide a bridge between the people and the government and it is certainly a laudable objective. Effort should be made to involve persons who have credibility so that it becomes a meaningful channel of communication of popular grievances. One hopes that its composition would be made more representative.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Denies Role in Lockerbie Bombing

NC2602100192 Paris AFP in English 0919 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb 26 (AFP) - Iran on Wednesday denied British press reports it was involved in the bombing of an American plane over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988 that killed 270 people.

"We hereby officially declare that the said report is totally unfounded, viciously fabricated and simply false," said an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement received by AFP.

The British SUNDAY TIMES newspaper carried a report on what it called a secret Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) inquiry that said the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 had been financed and ordered by former Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

The United States and Britain have charged two Libyan nationals of responsibility for downing the plane in December 1988 over Lockerbie.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns 'playing games' with the lives of innocent human beings as an ungodly act, regardless of the cause, political or otherwise," the Foreign Ministry said.

Mohtashemi, currently an MP, is a key leader of radicals in Iran.

According to the SUNDAY TIMES he ordered the attack in retaliation for the accidental downing of an Iran Air civilian place over the Gulf by a U.S. warship in July 1988 in which 290 people died.

Karrubi on Majles Elections, Foreign Relations

NC2602103292 Tehran BAYAN in Persian Jan-Feb 92 pp 19-25, 53

["Exclusive" interview with Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi by an unidentified correspondent; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [BAYAN] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful.

How do you view the current situation of the revolution and the system? Do you consider favorable the policy of rapprochement with the world, the opening of a new door in relations, and the explicit criticisms of the past decade? What do you think is the revolution's situation?

[Karrubi] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. This question should be answered in several parts. One part concerns your remark that past policies have been criticized. I do not think they have. Generally speaking, past policies were directed toward the values of Islam and the revolution and toward the struggle against arrogance. It was a policy of neither East nor West, of defending Palestinian aspirations, and of striving toward Islamic rule in its ideological sense. It was a policy of Islamic values. No one can criticize these. They are the principles and hopes of the revolution, values for which the people created the revolution and gave sacrifices. They form the same framework which the imam outlined in his political, social, and jurisprudential stances and which he stated in the charter of his revolution, in his will, in his written and oral messages, and in his letters. Some might criticize minute details, procedures, and approaches, but this the imam himself did, advising the pious forces on a series of issues and warning them to take care.

As for the current process: We believe that we are also preserving the revolution's principles. We should preserve them. We have all repeated that the imam's revolution framework should be safeguarded. Talks, contacts, diplomatic relations, returning to the international family, and putting things in order are completed by preserving principles and values. If we do not, it will be very tragic for the Islamic revolution.

In their interviews, Westerners ask if we will reestablish relations with the West if the situation normalizes. I believe that we set out to sever relations with some countries, those to which the imam pointed, but that apart from these three or four, we intended having normal relations. We must not accept domination. We want your policy to be independent. Some may say that this framework should be violated and harmed, but what was determined for us by the imam or what the leadership or the Majles have clearly pointed out is that we should pursue the same ideals, the same principles, and the same objectives. The imam agreed and he insisted on preserving principles. He said: Relations should be normal with all countries except for the few.

We may continue to have political and economic relations with other countries, but they committed the mischief and created an atmosphere against the Islamic revolution and the Muslims. We can still see such mischief in some parts of the world, on issues such as the purchase of arms from the Soviet Union, the nuclear field, human rights, and so on. They commit the mischief and start a commotion. But we should have normal relations with other countries except for the few.

[BAYAN] As you stated, methods, not principles, have been criticized. We do not have a better situation than the past, which these people are criticizing. Economic policies have not led to a better situation (certainly not that of the promised general welfare), and, from the foreign policy viewpoint, we are no stronger.

As you also said, the problem does not lie in contacts with the existing outside world. The mode of contact and the way in which we should establish relations is important. It seems that we have adopted an approach from a weaker position, thinking that the world will turn to us. The world has adopted a more decisive approach toward us, one example of this being that the more we gave in the harsher their approach became. We have many examples of their unfavorable approach toward us.

Generally, we have not achieved the promised successes; in some fields we were better off before. Values appear to have been interpreted in a new way. This is what we assume.

[Karrubi] Well, your assumption, your line, and your conclusion are all respected. But I have things to say on the issues.

In the economic field, we thank and praise the past government for its efforts on the war and its problems, on the siege and the bombardment of our industrial centers, and on the difficult circumstances under which we lived. Naturally there were specific problems for the government to overcome.

The second point is that we do not believe the period following the past government was blessed. It was not filled with blessings and those friends who promised such an abundance may have been exaggerating and should not have raised the people's hopes. I am one of those who believe that we should strive to meet the people's needs within respectable and relatively good limits, satisfying their requirements for welfare, housing, basic goods, foodstuffs, medical services, education, schools, and anything they need for their livelihood. Under difficult conditions and pressures, austerity should be practiced, but it should be general, applying to everyone, from the highest echelons to the lowest strata. We should not be exempt and expect others to observe it.

The economy is not burgeoning, but at any rate activities have been completed and infrastructural works fulfilled. [passage omitted]

I believe that activities have been carried out. This does not undermine the past government, which deserves praise for facing war's difficult conditions and enforced heavy expenditure.

If foreign policy is approached from a weak position this is not right. On the whole, though, have our stances not been strong? Somewhere, some time a diplomat may have been weak—I do not doubt it—but the approach cannot be described as one of retreat. Yes, as you stated, they commit mischief. They want to weaken us. They want to force us into compromise without giving anything in return. But we have maintained our stances.

Again they are talking about the Salman Rushdie case, but we have not deviated from the imam's line. Have we not maintained our stance on our relations with the United States? Have we not maintained our position on our relations with the Zionists and Israel? Have we not maintained our stance on the intifadah? We have.

Naturally, we preserve the imam's trend, his truth, the imam's wish, his decisiveness, exceptional influence, and grandeur.

[BAYAN] What about establishing relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council or, say, relations with King Hassan or King Husayn?

[Karrubi] It is mostly they who want to have relations, not us.

[BAYAN] What we mean is under what conditions? For example, King Husayn has sentenced seven or eight Muslims to death on charges of their Islamic inclinations. When our president interacts with him in the way he does, has this not an unfavorable impact on the Muslims? In his will, the imam referred to the Saudis as "these traitors to the house of God and the cursed of God, his angels, and his messengers." Is it right, then, for us to send delegations there daily and to request relations from a weak position? Do the relations and diplomacy not stem from weakness? Our current approach on France, the United States, and the reactionary regional countries stems from weakness.

[Karrubi] Maybe in some cases. Let us assume that someone said something in an interview with a diplomat, but, as far as relations with Jordan are concerned, where are our weaknesses? The Jordanians wanted contacts and we established them. There is no doubt King Husayn is an incompetent. Nor is there that we must have relations with Jordan, the Muslims there, and with its parliament. You know better the situation in Jordan. There is nothing wrong in having relations with such countries, not from weakness but from logic. This does not apply to Egypt, where the issue is different. The imam ordered severing ties with Egypt because of Camp David and, while that philosophy prevails, relations cannot be reestablished.

As for Saudi Arabia, we do not want to say we have acted well in every respect, but let me tell you there is an

important issue on that front, namely the Hajj, one of the people's religious duties. Speaking frankly, you are wrong when you say we have acted out of weakness. Your assessment is not 100 percent correct.

[BAYAN] I have a question on the Majles and its position: Are we not facing the problem of several legislative centers? Some say the Majles is in danger of losing its authority. What do you think?

[Karrubi] We have created no new centers. We have the Expediency Discernment Council, which was formed on the imam's orders. Then we have the Constitution, on the completion of which the National Security Council was formed and its position specified. The Cultural Revolution Council was also formed according to the imam's decree, while the Majles has its place and carries out its activities at a high level. There have been times when we have said these centers should not exceed their limits but should do their jobs. The Cultural Revolution Council is concerned with the problems in the universities, but the Majles must lay down the extent and nature of their activities. The Expediency Discernment Council's duties are laid down in the Constitution and involve solving differences between the Council of Guardians and the Majles and solving problems identified by the leadership. We have occasionally explained that some issues taken to this council should have gone to the Majles. There should be such centers, but they should act within their limits. The matter has also been raised in the councils' sessions.

[BAYAN] Generally speaking, the Supreme Security Council should work within the framework of the country's security. Security must be defined as including all the country's problems and governmental and nongovernmental affairs. It will also include the duties of the Ministry of Labor, which also take on a security angle, as do culture, employment, demonstrations by the unemployed and in universities, and many other issues. Asking this council to issue a ruling on anything connected with security will be tantamount to overriding the Majles.

You know better that the same applies to the Expediency Discernment Council, which, the Constitution states, should receive any difference which cannot be solved between the Council of Guardians and the Majles. But it is brought ordinary problems, nothing to do with differences between the Majles and the Council of Guardians.

[Karrubi] It is not as extensive as you say, but there may be some relevance. The major topics discussed by the National Security Council are serious security matters, which have included the region and the United States, the Persian Gulf (during the regional crisis and war), the new world order, the decline of Marxism, the Soviet Asian republics, and so on. The same applies to the Expediency Discernment Council.

[BAYAN] So be it! Some criticize the way the Majles operates and that it has achieved nothing fundamental on housing, the people's current problems, and so on. The Majles should be criticized. It has been unable to take any strong or effective steps on political concerns. These criticisms exist. What is your opinion?

[Karrubi] [passage omitted] On the whole, the Majles has operated well throughout its three terms, the third, I think, being the strongest. I have been a member throughout and believe that the third term enjoys superiority. I reiterate that in the political, cultural, and economic fields it has approved many good bills. [passage omitted]

[BAYAN] We are speaking about Majles expectations.

[Karrubi] What are they?

[BAYAN] We will explain. On the eve of the third term elections the imam sent an important message and issued a series of directives, ultimately determining the formation of the third Majles. The Majles' activities and its steps have not matched expectations and the spectacular efforts carried out during the elections. In what direction is our social situation and society moving? Class differences are increasing daily. From where do these stem? There should be a collective approach and a general Majles line which should reflect in a series of large and small laws, preventing the gap between the classes widening and more concessions being given to the rich each day. The imam made it clear to the people that they should elect those who would support the weak. But now the people see a national school for the rich. They see that the more you pay the better the education, health care, and housing you get! The people know, for example, that the chosen ministers had not usually suffered the problems of the revolution, poverty, and hunger as the imam had, or felt the sufferings of the oppressed and met the other conditions that were repeatedly set by the imam. They see that in most cases only their field of specialization was considered. We will not discuss how specialized these fields were. Anyway, this Majles approved this cabinet and worked with it. [passage omitted]

[Karrubi] I do not say that the Majles has fulfilled expectations, but there are three points to be considered: First, sometimes expectations may be high; second, we should see the Majles' capabilities (at least as far as its position in society is concerned); and third, some conditions that emerge should also be considered. [passage omitted]

I agree that the Majles did not meet all its expectations or solve all its problems. But was it truly capable of so doing? As far as solving the economic problems of housing and so on are concerned, there are many factors involved in working toward a solution. The Majles on its own cannot solve all society's problems. The Majles and government capabilities should be considered.

We are asking: Was the Majles dynamic or not? Was it progressive? It was. Did it pay attention to the imam's orders and act within their framework? Did it support

the system, the movement, and the Muslims and oppose world blasphemy? Did it have a good, correct stance or not? It did.

[BAYAN] On the whole, we think that this is true and, as for the Majles, we hope that it will continue to carry out its duties and improve. Another question arises: What do you hope the fourth Majles term will accomplish? Will it preserve the line? Where will the efforts started in the country, in which one faction is trying to remove the other, lead? How serious is this? How do you see the situation?

[Karrubi] I have repeated that I predict the elections to be normal and correct and I hope they will be. This faction and this group, call them what you will, with the majority in the Majles today will also have the majority in the next term. This is my forecast and assessment. It stems from the information I get from all corners of the country. It will only apply if the elections are held correctly and if we do not resort to accusations of incompetence to remove someone. Law has discerned competence. Our Majles is 12 years old. We have an elections law which points out who should come and who should not come to the Majles. The laws that we have approved have been endorsed by the Council of Guardians and should be heeded. [passage omitted]

[BAYAN] Do you not think that the process which seeks to remove some people from the scene intends to purge the Majles in the same widespread way the government was purged? They will not halt their efforts. Such is the Council of Guardians' interpretation of the Constitution that even the interior minister says we have a problem with it and that part of the government is facing a problem. In view of this, do you think they will not make any move?

[Karrubi] I did not say anyone wants to remove anyone else. The leader and high-ranking officials do not allow this and are stopping it one way or another. That is what I think. Yes, there are those who want to remove others and, God forbid, if it happens it will threaten the revolution. We should really try and involve the people in the elections. We have repeated that the greater their involvement the greater the benefit to the revolution and the system. The world is awaiting the outcome of the fourth elections. Generally speaking, it wants to learn the fate of these two factions, which is expected to be determined next year. These are the most important elections after those of the imam. [passage omitted] We should all press on. Extensive popular involvement consolidates and stabilizes the revolution and that is achieved by making the people feel that their votes count, that they rule their own fate, and that their chosen candidates will go to the Majles.

[BAYAN] This when some gentlemen are said to be declaring that if the other group wants to go to the Majles it will do so over their dead bodies!

[Karrubi] Yes. Some personalities have said some dangerous things which harm the revolution. Whatever they think they should not say it. [passage omitted]

We should instill hope in the people. God willing, they will attend the elections and feel that they rule their own fate. They should not be dealt blows and become disenchanted. We hope the elections will, God willing, be characterized by enthusiasm and zeal and that everyone, regardless of their faction, will accept the result.

[BAYAN] Have the Tehran Militant Clerics set out any criteria for selecting candidates? Will they be designating candidates in all the cities?

[Karrubi] We have a candidate in Tehran. We have designated some and there will be others, but our list is incomplete. The criteria and yardsticks are mostly those I outlined at the beginning of this interview. A deputy should be pious, revolutionary, committed to Islam, to the religious leader, and to the Constitution based on the imam's line, defend the oppressed, oppose arrogance, and, in short, come from these ranks.

[BAYAN] Will the clerics attempt a coalition with other forces?

[Karrubi] No. This is not being discussed.

[BAYAN] We mean a coalition with the forces that follow the imam's line. Will there not be such a coalition either?

[Karrubi] God willing, all forces follow the imam's line. Yes, among the groups that have close stances on the imam's line and which agree on it and on the revolution there are efforts to make joint lists as far as is possible. Even if these forces are not one they should be as close as they can be in their views and have as few differences as possible.

As for the other cities, based on the imam's views, we will have nothing to do there, only in Tehran. The imam said that no one is another's guardian. During elections for the second Majles term we carried out some activities for the other cities. I was a member of the Tehran Militant Clergy. We prepared lists for the cities and designated candidates. We did the same thing in the Society of Scholars, but the imam told us: What business do you have designating lists for the cities? You are in Tehran. Prepare your own lists. Let the gentlemen in Qom and the clergymen in the cities prepare their own. The imam's philosophy was that the clergy in, say, Bandar-e 'Abbas prepare their own list; we in Tehran should not prepare it for them. There may be contacts, discussions, cooperation, and consultations but they should prepare their own lists. After all they should campaign and vote for their own candidates.

[BAYAN] There has been talk of a joint Militant Clergy-Militant Clerics session. Have the militant clerics taken any step and does the session have anything to do with the elections?

[Karrubi] In one of his speeches, the leader called for unity, sincerity, and avoiding discord. I do not remember his eminence's precise words, but he stated that there are common points between the two and they should sit down and talk. Our friends then decided to hold a session and we sent a letter on this to the Tehran Militant Clergy and to Mahdavi. He welcomed the move, replying that he would raise the issue and inform us of the outcome. He then wrote to say that since Hashemi-Rafsanjani was a member of the Militant Clergy (we had also invited him to attend the session), the session might be held in his office as a meeting between the two groups. Eventually our friends agreed and we said we were ready. Again Mahdavi wrote, saying Hashemi-Rafsanjani was on a trip but that the joint session would be held on his return. Then I went on a trip. We have not received another letter. The session will deal with social problems, familiarization and discussion of common points, and not the elections.

[BAYAN] The Tehran Militant Clerics grouping was formed on the basis of the imam's view and in tandem with his reference to pure Mohammedan and American-style Islam. Both groups have outstanding figures from both factions. Why do their opinions differ and why can there not be a coalition on political issues such as the elections?

[Karrubi] We do not believe that in referring to American-style Islam the imam was referring to these gentlemen. We do not say this. Our opinions on political and economic problems differed and these led to the branching out. From the start we followed the imam's decision on branching out and he granted his consent, later insisting on it. Some even asked the imam to call for unity, but he said no, let them be the way they are. We have branched out but we are brothers. I tell you that the joint session will have nothing to do with coalition. It will concentrate on friendship and sincerity. After all we are clergymen and are involved with issues inside and outside the Majles.

[BAYAN] The question is: What type of difference is there?

[Karrubi] There may be a difference in ideas. It is not wrong to have different views. The five people here could have different tastes and views. Did the imam not endorse both trends? [passage omitted]

[BAYAN] Because of the significance of the issue of pure Mohammedan and American-style Islam, which the imam pointed out and which is on the minds of the public, I would like to discuss this important point further.

[Karrubi] We believe that pure Mohammedan Islam fights blasphemy. It is the Islam of the barefoot and of the revolution. It supports the oppressed, cries out, and was practiced by the imam. We believe that American-style Islam is capitalist, the Islam of bigots, of the Hojjatiyeh Association, and one which is not dynamic or full of zeal, one which fails to confront arrogance, and which seeks comfort. This kind of Islam may exist in society and among the seminarians. It may exist in Qom, in the Militant Clergy Association, and in the university. This is probably the case. We have bigotry in many places. We have many intellectuals who are bigots. But it is not as though the imam wanted to say that we (the clerics) follow pure Mohammedan Islam and that they (the clergy) follow American-style Islam. He does not say so in these words. But the interpretation for the scholars was clear when he said that the children in the seminaries should accept competent clergymen who enjoy support, or risk falling into America's lap. Someone who is a capitalist and a bigot, no matter who, follows American-style Islam. We should be careful. And, when someone says something and expresses a view, we should not immediately accuse him of being a capitalist or someone who amasses wealth, thus stopping him expressing his views. When people cannot express their views this is suppression. [passage omitted]

[BAYAN] In planning and formulating policy how should the country approach these two types of Islam to which the imam referred? What should be done to prevent further contamination by American-style Islam and to increase pure Mohammedan Islam?

[Karrubi] We should spread the imam's stances. We know that he did not comment on anything until he had thought it through. When he did say something he insisted on it. He knew what he was saying when he insisted that American-style and pure Mohammedan Islam exist and that American-style Islam is Saudi Islam, the Islam of King Hassan and King Husayn, which could spread to other places and among the masses, the seminaries, and the universities. In the decree on the members of the Council of Guardians, he pointed to pure and to American-style Islam and stressed it in his letters to the children of martyrs and in his statements. He seized every opportunity to point this out, which showed that the imam felt the threat. These stances should be spread, the characteristics of pure Islam and American-style Islam clearly stated, and we should be careful not to become involved with the American-style Islam.

[BAYAN] In view of the region's new situation, the disintegration of the Eastern Bloc, and U.S. flaunting in the region it seems that we should go beyond our current policies, taking the defense of our revolution more seriously. How do you view the current situation as far it concerns the expansion of the two sides? Do you not think that the region's activists and combatants (the Palestinians for example) are seeking greater assistance? What do you think?

[Karrubi] There have been very significant changes in the world during the past couple of years. The socialist camp has disintegrated and America wants to become the absolute ruler, striving toward this end without seeing any rivals in front of it. This has created some problems for the Third World and the Islamic countries, but, since they enjoy certain potential, I think that if relations among Muslims and cooperation among Third

World countries is good and if they stand next to each other they can stop the United States infiltrating the region and their countries. The United States is trying to pressurize countries. We saw what it did to Iraq, which occupied Kuwait, and how it keeps finding fault with Libya. We saw what happened in the elections in Algeria, where they talk so much about man's freedom because they cannot say that the elections were void and were rigged. Now they are saying that democracy and freedom are being destroyed!! If someone from the Islamic Republic visits Sudan we see the West's concern. We see its concern when someone visits Yemen. The West wants to stifle the people and to rule. It wants to spread fear and accuse countries on human rights, nuclear issues, and so on. If Muslim and Third World revolutionary forces stand next to each other they can confront the existing situation and these aggressive policies.

Among other things, the new world order has hatched a plot to erase the Palestinian problem and to waste the Palestinian people's rights. Conditions are difficult in that they are helping the Zionists crush the intifadah and draw the Arabs to a compromise. They are pressuring them to attend the peace talks and to recognize Israel. In spite of this we see the intifadah continuing its path. Under such conditions, the Palestinian revolution should enjoy as much support as possible. The intifadah should be supported. The Palestinians should get more financial assistance. The existing intifadah should be internationalized, by all of us acting as its spokesmen and campaigners, stopping it being stifled.

When we see such selfless men and women on the scene of the intifadah, we should give them our full moral and material support.

Fortunately the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Majles held the conference on Palestine and the secretariat that has been formed will allow Islamic parliaments to implement certain steps. Some Islamic countries have promised to pass laws and approve budgets providing more assistance for the Palestinians. Under these circumstances revolutionary forces' activities and movements are necessary and should be helped.

[BAYAN] To date assistance has generally been political and possibly financial, but the intifadah and the Palestinian forces need serious fundamental help and support, including training and arming the intifadah. Its members have had no universities inside the occupied territories. As the esteemed Majles speaker, what is your forecast and what steps is the system taking to this end?

[Karrubi] As far as universities are concerned, we have introduced a scholarship scheme—the value of which a minister has stated—and asked people to attend course of study.

As for military training, during the Palestine conference I proposed that an army should be formed, with garrisons in the Islamic countries where training could be offered. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps once said that they are ready to train a group each year. It is the commander in chief's duty to follow this up.

[BAYAN] Last year, thanks to your efforts and those of the hezbollahi forces and the imam's supporters, the Majles approved a law supporting Palestine. Spending included a series of foreign exchange and rial credits in support of the Palestinian revolution. Unfortunately this has not been included in this year's budget. What do you foresee? Will the Majles allocate more for Palestine? The Majles' actions had awe-inspiring impacts on the Islamic countries and boosted the morale of the Palestinians and that of other liberation movements. As far as we know, this year's Planning and Budget Committee did not approach the issue seriously; latest reports are that a small amount has been considered for this purpose.

[Karrubi] This was not stated in last year's budget bill either. It was a Majles proposal and it was implemented. But, frankly speaking, the government cooperated very well. This year, too, I do not think that the Planning and Budget Committee should be blamed too much for this neglect. This concerns the officials in charge of the Palestine problem. I told them once that they had not included this topic on their agenda. They regretted this, saying that there are so many topics they neglected this one.

[BAYAN] Let us continue on support for Palestine and revolutions in the region, on the current situation and Muslim victories, and on the atmosphere being created by the United States and its hostility toward the Islamic Revolution: In view of all these, do you think we should establish relations with reactionary regional countries? The Muslim-inhabited republics of the Soviet Union are now independent. The region's revolutionary people had pinned their hopes on the Islamic Republic as the only place in which the Islamic revolution has occurred. Should we get so close to these reactionary countries, give concessions to the Saudis, and accept the King of Morocco? Is this not a weakening of our positions?

[Karrubi] I do not believe they think like this. [sentence as published] We are preserving our revolutionary positions in our support for the revolutionary forces and we should support and defend them. If our approach, contacts, economic, and political relations with the world are such that we forget the revolutionary forces this is bad. But if we maintain our relations with the revolutionary forces and the Palestinian issue then why should we not have relations with the world? We are a country in need of support for our political stances and they need our support. We trade with the world, we have neighbors, we have some problems, we have oil, and we have OPEC. These revolutionary activities should continue while we preserve our relations with them. But if relations call for sacrificing all these then this is wrong.

We hold activities and contacts inside the Muslim-inhabited republics, sending delegations, working with

the Muslims, who are very happy about this, and cooperating with them on language, the economy, oil, and in other fields.

We should have relations with the Third World, the African countries, and the oppressed. Look at the extent of our contacts with the Third World countries since our revolution. We have opened embassies and now we have many in African countries, but they cannot open one embassy here. We have opened ours and invite them, their ministers, and their speakers to come. There is nothing inconsistent about having relations with one country or another. The people in many of these countries really do want to have relations with us.

[BAYAN] I thank you for granting this interview despite your tight schedule.

Pakistan

Spokesman Rejects Indian Allegations of Interference

BK2602154292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Pakistan has once again rejected Indian allegations about Islamabad's interference in that country's internal affairs. Islamabad has also reaffirmed Pakistan's political and moral support to the people of occupied Kashmir in their struggle to achieve their right of self-determination. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, the Foreign Office spokesman said it is known to all that Pakistan is not interfering in any way in Indian Punjab or anywhere else in India.

Indian Envoy Meets Minister, Discusses Kashmir

BK2602032792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] S.K. Lamba, the Indian high commissioner to Pakistan, met with Federal Minister for Interprovincial Coordination Mohammad Aslam Khattak in Islamabad yesterday and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, including Kashmir. The two sides agreed on the need to create an atmosphere of peace and stability in the region to enable the people of the two countries to use their capabilities for their national progress and prosperity. Khattak emphasized that the Kashmir issue is the biggest hurdle on the way to normalization of ties between Pakistan and India. He expressed the hope that sincere efforts will be made to resolve the problem. He said that the Kashmir issue has remained unresolved for more than four decades and it is time now for the two countries to sit down and resolve it.

Responding to the feelings of the federal minister, the Indian high commissioner said that India too wishes normalization of relations with Pakistan, adding that mutual dialogue will greatly help in resolving problems.

Spokesman—Recognition of Israel Ruled Out

BK2602115092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman today reaffirmed Pakistan's full support to the Palestinian cause and ruled out the possibility of recognition of Israel by Pakistan. At a briefing in Islamabad today, the spokesman recalled that Pakistan has in the past extended its full support to the Palestinians for their cause at various international forums. He said there is no change in Pakistan's position on the issue and it will continue to extend full support to the Palestinian cause. The question of recognition of Israel by Pakistan, therefore, simply does not arise.

Comments on Kashmir, Afghanistan

BK2602143892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Pakistan has ruled out the possibility of recognition of Israel. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan will continue to support the Palestinian cause and there was no question of recognizing Israel by Pakistan. Pakistan, he said, has in the past extended full support to the Palestinian cause at various international forums.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said there is absolutely no change in the position of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. He said Pakistan wants that the Kashmir issue be resolved on the basis of the UN resolutions. The people of Kashmir, he said, should be given their inalienable right of self-determination.

Replying to a question on Afghanistan, he said Pakistan is fully committed to a comprehensive political settlement of Afghanistan issue. Therefore, we fully support the five-point plan of the UN secretary general for bringing about such a settlement.

Further on Visit by Kazakh President Nazarbayev

Banquet Speeches Reported

BK2402034292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said the time has come for the international community to pressure India to initiate a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir dispute peacefully. He was speaking at a banquet hosted by him in honor of Kazakhstan President Nur Sultan Nazarbayev and his delegation in Islamabad last night. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said the world must pressure India to honor its commitment under the UN Security Council resolutions and to desist from the brutal use of force in Kashmir. He said the ongoing struggle in the occupied Kashmir has stemmed from India's constant denial of the right of self-determination to the people of the territory for the past

40 years. The outstanding dispute over Kashmir constitutes the biggest irritant in relations between India and Pakistan, he added.

About Afghanistan, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that the settlement of this problem is an essential prerequisite for an effective cooperation between Pakistan and the Central Asian republics. Pakistan has consistently supported all efforts for an early political settlement of the Afghnistan problem with a view to restoring peace to that unfortunate land. Pakistan has fully supported the UN secretary general's efforts for convening an intra-Afghan dialogue to decide the formation of an interim Afghan government acceptable to the Afghan people.

Turning to bilateral relations, the president said that constant cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan will not only help in ensuring progress and prosperity of the people of the two countries, but it will also result in the creation of an economically prosperous, effective and viable community comprising the Central Asian and Southwest Asian countries. He said the five agreements that are to be signed during Nazarbayev's visit to Pakistan will open a new chapter in bilateral cooperation. The agreement for the establishment of a joint ministerial commission will provide the much-needed institutional framework for the mutually beneficial cooperation in the political, economic, trade, scientific, and cultural fields.

In his speech, Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev said his country desires a peaceful negotiated settlement of all the outstanding issues of this region. Offering his country's cooperation in the settlement of the Afghanistan problem, he supported the UN secretary general's initiatives in this regard. Nazarbayev also expressed support for Pakistan's efforts for declaring South Asia a nuclear-weapon-free zone and said that Kazakhstan, which possesses nuclear weapons, is ready to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Referring to Pakistan's economic reform program, the Kazakhstan president said his country wants to have cooperation with Pakistan in the fields of textiles, agriculture, processing industries, petro-industries, trade, banking, and telecommunications. Earlier, Nursultan Nazarbayev had an hour-long meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Science and Technology Minister Elahi Bux Sumroo, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali were also present during the meeting.

Pakistan and Kazakhstan are signing in Islamabad today five agreements for increasing bilateral cooperation in various fields. The agreement-signing ceremony will be followed by talks at the official and ministerial levels, in which concrete shape will be given to the proposals for increasing bilateral cooperation. The proposals were discussed by Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Nur Sultan Nazarbayev at their meeting in Islamabad yesterday.

Nazarbayev Departs

BK2502161892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has reiterated that Pakistan will extend all possible support and cooperation to the newly independent Muslim states of Central Asia, including Kazakhstan. He was talking to newsmen at the Lahore Airport after departure of the Kazakhstan president, Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, at the end of his three-day official visit to Pakistan. He said the newly independent states of Central Asia are making concrete efforts to be self-sufficient in all fields and they expect solid support from Pakistan in this regard. Pakistan would come up to their expectations.

To another question, the prime minister said he will visit Kazakhstan at an appropriate time. He said the president of Uzbekistan and heads of other Central Asian states will also pay visits to Pakistan.

Sharif Meeting Mojahedin Leaders To Forge Unity

BK2602153892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said he is holding separate meetings with Afghan mojahedin leaders to forge unity in their ranks, which will facilitate a settlement of the Afghan problem. He was answering newsmen's questions after laying the foundation stone of the new campus of the International Islamic University in Islamabad today. When asked if any change in the UN five-point formula is being considered, Nawaz Sharif said the UN representative has gone to New York for consultations with the UN secretary general in this regard.

Afghanistan's Rabbani Backs UN Formula

BK2602020492 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 24 Feb 92 p 5

[By Amir Mir]

[Text] Lahore—Following an offer to head the Afghan interim government, the chief of Jamiat-e Eslami, Prof. [professor] Burhanuddin Rabbani has, reportedly, rejected the 'Shoora-e-Quaidi [consultative council of the leadership] Formula on which the four major groups of the Afghan mojahedin had recently agree in Peshawar. He has now decided to support the UN peace plan.

It may be recalled that the 'Shoora-e-Qauidi' Formula had been agreed upon after a great deal of manoeuvring by the sympathisers of pro-Islamist mojahedin groups, most notably the Jamaat-i-Islami chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed. The accord emerged after the latter's hectic

meetings with the heads of the four major parties in Peshawar and Afghanistan between December 28th to January 15 this year.

A source in Islamabad, however, told THE FRONTIER POST that Prof. Rabbani made the decision to oppose 'Shoora-e-Quaidi' Formula after meeting with a delegation of the representatives of the Iranian government on February 17, which had especially flown to Peshawar in a chartered plane. The source refused to disclose the identity of the Iranian envoys, although he indicated that they held fairly important positions in the government and have old links with Prof. Rabbani. According to the source, the Iranians offered presidentship of the proposed Afghan interim government under UN auspices. Prof. Rabbani's reaction to the offer is not known.

The 'Shoora-e-Quaidi' Formula had been evolved expressly to settle the UN peace plan which proposed a "Loya Jerga' [Afghan assembly] for installing an interim government in Afghanistan to hold elections after the cessation of hostilities.

The sympathisers of the pro-Islamist groups among mojahedin have been greatly dismayed by Prof. Rabbani's new stand because, according to them, he had been a part of the seven-party delegation which had gone to the presidency on December 3, 1991, and signed an accord based on 'Shoora-e-Quaidi' Formula. These leaders included Prof Bumanuddin Rabbani, Golboddin Hekmatyar, Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, Pir Ahmed Shah-Gaylani, Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi and two representatives of two Shi'ite factions, Qazi Amin and Ayatollah Mohsani. According to the 'Shoora-e-Quaidi' Formula agreed upon by them, the leaders of all the mojahedin parties of resistance were to form a council of 100 representatives to hold elections within a year for the elected government.

Keeping in view this background, Prof. Rabbani's new stand has both surprised and dismayed his fellow Afghan group leaders and pro- Islamist circles. They have been at a loss to explain the reasons for this sudden backtracking on part of the Afghan leader.

The source disclosed that the Pakistan establishment has been jubilant at Rabbani's new stand. After the consensus of the four major groups of the 'Shoora-e-Quaidi' Formula, the Pakistan government had lost all hope of the UN peace plan getting implemented, although it had lined up three minor parties headed by Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, Pir Ahmed Shah Gaylani and Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi. After Rabbani's defection to the Pakistan backed pro-UN parties, it is four-against-three now.

Minister—Foreign Investment Registers Sharp Rise

BK2502081692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The National Assembly was informed today that the flow of foreign investment has registered a sharp increase and from February last to January this year it totalled 251.7 million rupees. This was stated by the finance minister in a written reply to a question during question hour. To a question by Mr. Qamar Khalid Yunis, the parliament secretary for finance and economic affairs, Rana Tanvir Hussain, said that nine newly-sanctioned commercial banks in the private sector have started their operations out of the total of 10. He said that it is mandatory that after the letter of intent is issued, the bank must start functioning within six months.

TV Accused of Rebroadcasting BBC Program

BK2202160692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Agency reports say the Hong Kong-based STAR TV and the BBC World News Service are contemplating action against the Pakistan television for tampering with their program and rebroadcasting it to India. Both the networks have written letters to the Pakistan Television Corporation demanding that it should stop infringing their program with immediate effect. The letter said Pakistan television illegally picked up the BBC program on Jammu and Kashmir on the 17th of this month and rebroadcast it after tampering.

Sri Lanka

Troops Capture 10 Miles of LTTE Territory

BK2702113592 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Troops of Operation (Wanni Vikramathi) are resting after capturing 10 miles of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]-held territory before resuming their offensive against the terrorists who have so far not offered any resistance. The troops captured the territory on Tuesday [25 February] after moving north of the army forward lines in the Vavuniya district. Official sources meanwhile told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE leadership in Jaffna has ordered its area leaders in the northern and eastern provinces to track down and kill all those leaving the terrorist ranks. This is in a desperate bid to prevent the incidents of desertion and surrendering of its military wing cadres to the security forces.

Reports from the north state that the LTTE leader, Prabhakaran, charged with the murder of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, is now holed up in his bunker close to Jaffna town. Four terrorists were shot dead on Tuesday by security forces at Puvarachan Kulam in the Mullaitivu district. The curfew in Vavuniya and Mannar districts has been lifted. The curfew in the Mullaitivu district continues.